

### RECAP FROM LAST MEETING (2-3 min)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS (1-2 min)

### PERSONAL FAITH STORY (3 min)

### PRAYER (8-10 min)

Split into groups of two or three.

### LESSON (30 min)

Spend five minutes on these two questions:

1. Are there unresolved offenses that someone has against you? If so, would you mind sharing?
2. Do you have unresolved offenses that you have against others? If so, what?

Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-7. Verse five says that Love “keeps no record of wrongs.” Jesus Christ provided the ultimate example of this type of love. On the cross He paid the price for the sins of the entire world. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Jesus kept no record of wrongs; rather, He prayed, “Father, forgive them,” from the cross as He died (Luke 23:34). Peter asked him once, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times’” (Matthew 18:21-22).

Forgiving someone who has wronged us is one of the hardest things that we encounter in the workplace because sinning injures, but we need to remember that forgiveness heals. We all sin by omission (should do) or commission (should not do), and all have the potential to offend or be offended. When sinned against, as an alternative to becoming helpless victims, we can proactively decide to forgive rather than wallow in the collateral damage caused by another’s bad behavior. Romans 12:19 commands, “leave the revenge to the Lord.”

### GROUP DISCUSSION

- Does forgiving someone in business mean that you ought to continue doing business with them? Why or why not?
- Do you react to hurt or offense in the workplace with an attempt to seek revenge? To wound the person who has wounded you? If so, explain how you feel that getting revenge or wounding your offender would resolve your problem. Would that resolution bring lasting peace, or only add to your pain as a victim?
- Some responses to hurt and offense are not obvious. Instead of an outburst of anger or hope for revenge, there is the quiet, subtle eating away—the “gnawing teeth”—of a bitter heart. Is this your response to those who hurt you? Why can this kind of response be even more deadly than an outburst?
- What characteristics in your life might indicate that you haven’t fully forgiven past hurts, even if you know in your head what you need to do?

### ACTION STEPS (4-5 min)

1. What is your specific plan for addressing (and resolving) those records of wrongs that could be having a negative impact on your relationships?

### CLOSING PRAYER (5 min)