



# Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

## SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022



### Take your Pulse

What characteristic about yourself are you the most proud of?

What attribute about yourself do you try to hide from others, and maybe even from God?

### Today's Reading

Matthew Chapter 18

The Kingdom of God is not always a pleasant place. For as often as there is talk of forgiveness, there is some harsh reactions when forgiveness is not given or experienced. And perhaps that makes no sense at all. Why would not forgiving be the main crime punishable by all sorts of revenge style language? Perhaps because the Kingdom is all about inclusivity, welcoming, hospitality, and most importantly forgiveness. The Kingdom is not a place where one must be perfect by human standards or human judgments. The Kingdom is a place where all of God's creation has a place, all of God's beloved children have a home. The Kingdom is a place unlike anything we might otherwise experience on earth.



### Start the Thinking

The servant is forgiven a huge debt, but then goes and refuses to forgive another servant of a much smaller debt. Why do we people so easily hear God's forgiveness for all our sins, but so readily refuse to forgive those around of us such minor offenses and things that don't have much consequence?



### Conversing with God

God of all forgiveness, we can plead with you all day, but in your Son's death and resurrection, we have already received forgiveness beyond anything we can imagine. Give us such generosity to now proclaim the same forgiveness to others, that they, too, may rise from their knees and stand tall and proud as beloved children in your kingdom. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen



### Be blessed

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine brightly upon you that you experience all God's grace. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen