

Getting into Our LivesGroup time - 20 minutes

1. Through this study, what is God teaching you about asking for forgiveness? What is He teaching you about forgiving others?
2. What has been a recent hurt that you have not forgiven or has been particularly difficult for you to forgive? (*Be cautious with details – this should not turn into gossip*).
3. Is it ever difficult for you to truly believe that God will continue to forgive you? Why or why not?

Getting Out the GospelGroup time - 5 minutes

In a society that demands justice, forgiveness of personal injury is largely unexpected. If you get the opportunity to forgive someone, how would you explain why you did and relate that to the gospel?

Getting into PrayerGroup time - 10 minutes

Each week during this series we will place another biblical prayer in this section. Pray through these in a God-centered and meaningful way.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.*

Psalm 51:1-4

Forgiven & Forgiving *Matthew 6:12, 14-15*

I. Forgive Us Our Debts

God's people pray for forgiveness to _____ their relationship with God.

II. As We Forgive Our Debtors

Forgiving others is a _____ of our being forgiven by God.

Forgiveness is Not...

How to Become a Forgiving Person

1. Never _____.

God says, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay..." – Hebrews 10:30

2. _____ with it immediately.

"Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger..."
– Ephesians 4:26

3. _____ for those who hurt you.

I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. – Matthew 5:44-45

4. Let it _____.

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." *Philippians 4:13*

I never knew:

I need to change:

I should share:

GROWTH GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of February 25, 2018

Getting StartedGroup time - 15 minutes

1. What kind of loans have you needed to take? Has it ever been difficult to make the payments or pay it off?
2. What would be your response if the bank called you up and said you could cancel your debt? What would that change in your life?
3. Have you ever loaned money to a friend or family member? How did that go?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting into God's WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read Matthew 6:12,14-15

1. What sort of imagery does Jesus use in this part of the prayer? Why do you think that is?
2. What kind of forgiveness is Jesus talking about?
3. Why do you need to regularly ask God for forgiveness?
4. Do we have to forgive in order to be forgiven? How do they relate? Does forgiving earn forgiveness? **See also: Romans 5:6-8; Ephesians 2:8-9**

5. Who is this prayer example for? (Who are the people who call God "Father"?) How does remembering this alter how you interpret Jesus' instruction? **See also: 1 John 2:12**

PERSONAL: What does regularly confessing and asking for forgiveness do for your relationship with God? What does it do to your own growth in Christ?

Read Matthew 18:21-35

6. What does an unforgiving person understand about the gospel and the kingdom of God?
7. What does this parable tell us about the character and actions we should expect of God's kingdom citizens?

Read Ephesians 4:32 & Colossians 3:13

8. Why should and how can Christians forgive other people? Yet, what if you've suffered an egregious personal offense?

Read 1 John 1:5-2:6

9. According to this passage, how would you describe the complicated relationship between Christians and sin?