

Lenten Sermon Series

Session 2 Discussion guide

Open your Life Group with prayer. Spend whatever time is needed for any of the members to share needs or concerns. Go through the discipleship questions your group has decided to use. If you have time then: Have someone read Matthew 18:21-35

1. Think about times in your life when it was difficult to forgive a wrong that had been done to you. What made forgiveness hard?
2. Why is thinking that forgiveness is a benefit for the offender a false assumption?
3. Forgiving someone doesn't always mean continuing in a relationship with them, particularly if the relationship is toxic and/or abusive. Why is this important to know?
4. What new insights did you gain from Jesus' parable of the unforgiving slave?
5. In light of the Cross, why is forgiving someone small compared to Christ forgiving you? Why did Jesus say we would be forgiven as we forgive others?
6. Why is forgiving someone best seen as cancelling a debt?
7. Why is it important to name what has been taken from you instead of generally forgiving someone?
8. Which of the 3 steps of forgiveness: (1. Always think of forgiveness as cancelling a debt. 2. Simply cancel the debt. 3. You have to refuse to hold that debt against them again.) the hardest for you to do? Why?
9. Think about the times when you have caused harm to someone else. Have you fully sought forgiveness for what you did? What would help in repairing that relationship with that person?
10. Why do you think many struggle with forgiving themselves? How might "Since Jesus forgives you, by not forgiving yourself, are you putting yourself above Christ?" help?

Lord, I recognize that at Calvary Jesus paid the price for all my sins and cancelled my debt. Thank you for forgiving me of all my sins. Lord, I have been harboring anger in my heart against (tell God who). I feel like I've been a victim...they have robbed me of (name what they have taken from you) Right now, Lord, I'm choosing to cancel that debt. They don't owe me anymore. Debt cancelled. Please allow my painful memories to become reminders of Your grace, forgiveness and healing in my life. (open those hands). In Jesus' name. Amen.