

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Come to the Cross” Matt 6:13 Feb 4/5

Getting Started

The Lord’s Prayer or model prayer is a revelation of the character of God as Father, King, Provider, Forgiver, Leader and Deliverer revealing a rhythm of invitation and challenge. Therefore, our relationship with God spiritually is to permeate our relationships physically, causing God to become most visible in our lives when we embrace and model forgiveness.

If we’re honest with ourselves, we all live in a state of constantly needing forgiveness for our sins against God and others. As those who have put our trust in Jesus as our Savior, we know that all of our sins (past, present, and future) have been forgiven at the cross where He gave His perfect life for our sins. However, we still sin against God and others daily in our thoughts, actions, and words.

Christian author C.S. Lewis said, “Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive.”

Share with us about a time when someone hurt you deeply and you truly struggled with the idea of forgiving them...

Going Deeper

Forgiveness is about Favor: “And”

Note: At the root of the word “forgiveness” is the word “give” thus creating a connection back to the word “give” in verse 11 concerning physical provision.

Why do you think Jesus connects our dependence on Him (as our daily bread) with our need to be forgiven?

What does it force us to realize?

Forgiveness is about Fellowship: “Forgive our debts”

Observation: There are five different words for “sin” used in the New Testament:

Romans 3:23: “missing the mark”- Archery terminology. This is used to illustrate that no human has lived a perfect life, hitting the bullseye of moral perfection every moment of every day.

Eph. 2:1, Col. 3:13: “offenses” or “trespass”- Carelessness leading to slipping or falling.

James 2:9: “transgression”- Intentional crossing of the boundaries. You know something is a sin, and you do it anyway without remorse.

1 John 3:4, Matt. 7:23: “iniquity”- Open rebellion. You don’t care what God’s moral standards are. You live as you see fit.

Matt. 6:12: “debt, debtor or ought.”- Owing something to another party

Christian author John Stott says, “Once our eyes have been opened to see the enormity of our offense against God, the injuries which others have done to us appear by comparison extremely trifling. If, on the other hand, we have an exaggerated view of the offenses of others, it proves that we have minimized our own to God.”

How can you use this concept to help you adopt the attitude that allows forgiveness to be possible?

Forgiveness is about Forgiveness: “we have forgiven”

- The Effects of un-forgiveness:

What are some of the effects of choosing to not forgive someone?

- The Encouragement in Forgiveness:

What happens when you do choose to forgive?

What does forgiveness not mean? (*possible answers*: you don't necessarily have to trust the person again; you don't have to be taken advantage of again; you don't have to be a victim)

Forgiveness is about Freedom: "our debtors"

What do you think about the following statement: "Forgiveness is unlocking the door to set someone free and... realizing you were the prisoner!" ?

I am not a victim
I am a child of God
I am redeemed
I am chosen
precious in my father's sight,
and loved beyond measure.
I am forgiven
I am Free to forgive others,
this is who I am,
This is my identity
-Anonymous-

Effects of non forgiveness

Fear
Oppression
Resentment
Guilt
Inconsolable
Vengeance
Exhausting

Encouragement of Forgiveness

Forgetting ?
Owning ?
Repaying ?
Guaranteeing ?
Ignoring don't let others fall victim
Vindicating God will be just
Excusing you don't excuse it

Prayer Requests