



Week 4 - Forgive

Series Passage: Matthew 6:9-14

Focus for the Week: Matthew 6:12, Acts 7:54-60, Acts 26:9-18, Colossians 3:12-14

Discussion Guide:

Prayer is one of the most important parts of the Christian life. If we are not in communication with God, how can we grow in our relationship with and understanding of Him? Prayer is central that Jesus himself took the time to give us an outline of how to pray; the Lord's Prayer.

Pray together: Matthew 6:9-14

Our focus for this week is on verse 12, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."

Q: What does Jesus' use of the word "debts" teach us about forgiveness?

Q: What are the different types of debts that we can carry toward others?

Q: What are the types of debts that we can carry towards God our Father?

With your discussion on the word debt fresh in your mind, read through the following passages that trace a story of forgiveness throughout the New Testament.

Read: Acts 7:54-60

Read: Acts 26:9-18 (Paul, who was Saul in the previous section, speaking)

Read: Colossians 3:12-14

Following the story of Paul, and his writing on forgiveness in Colossians, shows us both the cost and the power of forgiveness.

Q: As you read these sections of Scripture, what stood out to you?

Q: What does Stephen's experience in Acts 7 teach us about forgiveness?

Q: Did Saul/Paul do anything to earn the forgiveness given to him?

Finishing Well

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you." The last four words are the heart of the gospel message. On the cross, Jesus took upon our debts to God, our sins, so that we may be forgiven. As with Saul/Paul, we did nothing to earn this, and yet it cost Christ His life.

When we live a life transformed by this knowledge, we become a people of forgiveness. In doing so, we point people to the gospel message of Jesus' death and resurrection, for it is the truth that we stand upon.

Close in Prayer