



INTRODUCTION

Take some time to discuss the previous week's daily readings and/or Challenges. Here are some things to discuss:

- ➔ Celebrate a "win" that you had in *Forgiving Challenge* over the past week.
- ➔ Share a struggle.
- ➔ What did God reveal to you during the readings and/or Challenges this past week?

Share an invention or a particular ingenuity of humankind that is the most fascinating to you, and explain why.

WATCH FORGIVING CHALLENGE SMALL GROUP VIDEO WEEK 2 - SIN
kingofkings.org/forgiving

DISCUSSION

- 1 Do you believe we live in a culture that is addicted to becoming offended? Explain.
- 2 Sin is defined as missing the mark. Any missing of the mark would be considered sin. Do you feel like some sin gets elevated in our culture and other sin gets minimized? If so, which ones get elevated and minimized, and is it ever okay to categorize sins in this manner? Explain.
- 3 Even in a nation where the majority of Americans still claim a faith in Jesus, Lifeway Research tells us that only 22% of men and 33% of women in America depend on Jesus to overcome sin. On top of that, 1/3 of people don't even confess to being a sinner. Zach says, "You will never be free if you cannot admit you are a sinner." Agree or disagree. Explain.

Read: **Isaiah 59:2** *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.* Based on this passage, what is the consequence of sin?

Say: *Forgiving Challenge* will largely focus on the story of how Jesus forgives Peter. Peter is the only other fully developed character in the 4 Gospels outside of Jesus. By exploring how Jesus will forgive Peter, we will begin to better understand how Jesus forgives each one of us. In our small group study for today, we will examine parts of Peter's story and the events leading up to Peter's sin that he is most known for.





FORGIVING CHALLENGE

DISCUSSION (CONT.)

Read **Luke 5:1-11** *Jesus Chooses Peter to be His Disciple* and answer the following questions:

- 1 Had Peter done anything up to this point to earn a front-row-seat to doing ministry with Jesus?
- 2 What was Peter's response to Jesus choosing him to be a disciple?
- 3 What can we learn from Peter and about Peter with this response?

Read **Matthew 16:13-20** *Jesus Appoints Peter to Lead the Church*

Not only did Jesus call Peter to be one of His 12 disciples, but He entrusted to Peter the keys to the church to Peter's leadership. What made Jesus choose Peter for such a high honor?

Read **Matthew 26:31-35** *Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial*

At the Last Supper, Jesus predicted all of the disciples would deny Him. But Peter stood up and boldly professed that he would be faithful all the way until the end. In your faith journey, have you ever, even with good intentions, professed something that later you couldn't live up to? Explain.

Read **John 18:15-18, 25-27** *Peter Denies Jesus Three Times*

Even though Jesus had not only called Peter as one of the 12, but also entrusted to him the keys to the church, Peter badly failed Jesus. How do you think Peter felt after hearing the rooster crow knowing that he had denied Jesus three times?

How do you feel, especially knowing how much God has done for you, when you fail to live up to God's will?

Zach says, "Sin is strong, but Jesus's grace is stronger." Do you really believe this? If so, are you willing to let the grace of Jesus cover your sin(s)?

CLOSING THOUGHTS

Say: **Failure is typically the end of someone's story in this world. But in God's story, any failure is an opportunity to fall into the grace and forgiveness of Jesus.**

#FORGIVINGCHALLENGE   

Read: **Romans 3:23-24** "23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."





FORGIVING CHALLENGE

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK

There are two types of sin. 1) Sins of commission are things we do, say, or think that we ought not. 2) Sins of omission are things that we have been called to do, say, or think that we leave undone.

Use the attached handout to take the following omission and commission sin tests. These tests are highly confidential. My hope is that after taking these sin tests that you would be vulnerable and honest with your accountability partner with the results.

PRAYER

Spend time praying and asking God to reveal the sin in your life that you want to be freed from. Spend time also thanking God that His grace is big enough to cover all of the sin in the group.

*For a deeper, daily experience to go alongside of the weekly small group experience, read days 6-12 of *Forgiving Challenge: A 40-Day Journey Leading to Freedom*.





FORGIVING CHALLENGE

THE SIN TEST HANDOUT

Take the following sin test, adapted from one created by Flatirons Community Church in Denver, Colorado. Mark "Yes" or "No" next to each questions.

- 1 Have you ever lusted after something or someone that wasn't yours? _____
- 2 Do you have anything in your life that you regret? _____
- 3 Do you have anything in your life that you are constantly ashamed of? _____
- 4 Have you ever cut yourself or intentionally harmed yourself? _____
- 5 Have you ever physically, verbally, or sexually abused someone else? _____
- 6 Have you ever abused drugs or alcohol? _____
- 7 Have you ever thought about or attempted suicide? _____
- 8 Have you ever had a sexual relationship outside of marriage? _____
- 9 Do you have any secrets that you've never shared with anyone? _____
- 10 Do you have anything in your life that you haven't been able to quit doing? _____
- 11 Have you purposefully and willingly viewed pornography? _____
- 12 Have you ever lied to someone in your effort to hide your actions? _____





FORGIVING CHALLENGE

THE OMISSION TEST HANDOUT

Take the following omission test. Below are ten things God has commanded us to do. Mark “Yes” or “No” if you’ve been actively involved in these over the past month.

- 1 Take care of the widow. (James 1:27, Isaiah 1:17) _____
- 2 Take care of the orphan. (James 1:27) _____
- 3 Feed the hungry. (Matthew 25:35) _____
- 4 Invite/befriend a stranger. (Matthew 25:35) _____
- 5 Clothe the naked. (Matthew 25:36) _____
- 6 Visit the sick. (Matthew 25:36) _____
- 7 Visit the imprisoned. (Matthew 25:36) _____
- 8 Defend the rights of the defenseless. (Proverbs 31:8-9) _____
- 9 Pray for those who mistreat you. (Matthew 5:44) _____
- 10 Go and make disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20) _____

