

Below as in Above

Forgive us our debts

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

*and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
-Matthew 6:12 (ESV)*

*¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses,
your heavenly Father will also forgive
you, ¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their
trespasses, neither will your Father forgive
your trespasses. -Matthew 6:14-15 (ESV)*

*⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive
ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we
confess our sins, he is faithful and just to
forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness. -1 John 1:8-9 (ESV)*

*¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy
and beloved, compassionate
hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and
patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if
one has a complaint against
another, forgiving each other; as the Lord
has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
-Colossians 3:12-13 (ESV)*

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Start Talking: Find a conversation starter for your group. (15 Min)

- Who is someone who has been on your heart to pray for lately? Why?

Head: Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. (10 Min)

- Read Matthew 6:12, What is this part of the pray about? Why do we need to ask God for forgiveness? Read 1 John 1:8-9 and Luther's small catechism petition 6 if available.
- Do you think we deserve God's forgiveness? What was the price Jesus paid for the forgiveness of sins, read Colossians 3:13-14.
- Read Matthew 6:21-35, Why should we also forgive those who sin against us?

Heart: Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness. (10 Min)

- Do you think it is easier to ask for forgiveness or to give it?
- What has God forgiven you for?
- Do you believe that there is a sin that is truly unforgivable? Why or why not?
- Has there been someone you have struggled to forgive? How could forgiveness be liberating for you, and be a powerful demonstration of the Gospel?

Hands: Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week. (10 Min)

- What is something that you need to ask forgiveness for? How can you do that in your prayers this week?
- Pray to God to also help you to forgive. If you are struggling to forgive someone you are encouraged to talk to your life group leader in private, your pastor, or biblical counselor.

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power. (15 Min)

- For suggestions on structuring prayer time, see the *Group Prayer Ideas* page in this packet.

Trios: Split into same-gender groups of three. (15 Min)

1. What's a passage of scripture that has impacted you this week? Read it to the group and explain why.
2. Is there anything God is leading you to repent of?
3. How's your weekly 3-2-1 challenge going? (*3 Conversations with New People, Learn 2 Names, Make 1 Meaningful Connection*)
4. Who is one non-believer that you need to reach out to this week?
5. What's something you'd like someone else to check in with you about this week?
6. Pray for one another.