

How to Forgive

Forgiveness

Discussion Questions

- **Tell the group about a time you were harmed and had a difficult time forgiving the person or people who hurt you.**
 - Do you still tell the story of what was done to you to yourself or others? Why?
 - What specifically made (makes) it hard for you to forgive?

- **Read Isaiah 53:3-4**
 - Why do you think people (we) struggle so much with what Jesus went through? What values do we hold that lead us to respond to him the way Isaiah describes?

- **Respond to the assertion that “the purpose of the pain is personal transformation.”**
 - Find two or three other texts of Scripture that support this.

- **Read Romans 12:1-2.**
 - How does Paul define “worship” in these verses?
 - When it comes to the willingness and ability to forgive, what kinds of worldliness do we need to be freed from?

- **Read Romans 12:9**
 - How do we tell the difference between good and evil?
 - What/who are the sources of influence in your life for your thinking, good or evil?
 - Why does forgiveness begin with thinking clearly?

- **Read Romans 12:14**
 - Who gives “blessing” and what does it mean to bless someone?
 - In terms of forgiveness, how might it help to begin by asking God to do what you are struggling to do?

- **Read Romans 12:18**
 - What “depends on you” when you have been hurt or offended?
 - How can we seek to live at peace if/when we are stuck in a volatile situation? What do we control?

- **Read Romans 12:19-20**

- Why does forgiveness require that we trust God? What happens if we don't or won't?
 - In light of the situation you described earlier, what practical actions could you take in obedience to v. 20?
 - What are the "burning coals" our enemy experiences through our obedience?
- **Read Romans 12:21**
 - Explain how forgiveness is the process of overcoming evil with good.
 - How is forgiveness and essential family members to love and serve one another?