



Message Title: Forgiveness

Date: September 29, 2025

Icebreaker

- **Share about a time when someone forgave you for something you didn't deserve. How did it make you feel?**
 - **When you hear the word *forgiveness*, what comes to mind first—peace, difficulty, freedom, or something else?**
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Scripture Focus

- **Luke 23:34**
 - **John 8:3–11**
 - **Ephesians 2:1–5**
 - **1 John 1:7**
 - **Ephesians 4:31–32**
 - **Colossians 3:12–13**
 - **Philippians 4:13**
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Discussion Part 1: What Forgiveness Is *Not*

1. **Not Minimizing – Why do you think some people feel like forgiving means saying “it’s no big deal”?**
2. **Not Reconciliation – How does knowing forgiveness is a “one-player game” change the way you think about it?**



3. **Not About Fairness** – In what ways has God given you what you *needed* instead of what you *deserved*?
 4. **Not Impossible** – How does Philippians 4:13 challenge the lie that forgiveness is beyond your ability?
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Discussion Part 2: Looking at Jesus' Example

Jesus' "worst day" included betrayal, false accusation, rejection, abuse, and humiliation.

- Which of these do you relate to most?
 - What does it say about Jesus' heart that His first words on the cross were: "*Father, forgive them...*"?
 - How does Jesus' example shape how you approach those who wrong you?
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Discussion Part 3: Living Out Forgiveness

1. **Receive Forgiveness Personally**
 - Why do we sometimes struggle to believe God has truly forgiven us?
 - How does remembering God's forgiveness daily change the way we live?
 2. **Release Forgiveness to Others**
 - What does it mean that "*The forgiven forgive*"?
 - How does remembering God has forgiven us more than we'll ever have to forgive others help us let go?
 3. **Represent Forgiveness Publicly**
 - In what ways can forgiveness be a witness to others about the gospel?
 - How could your group represent forgiveness in your community?
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Reflection & Application

- Who do you need to forgive that you've been holding back from?
 - Is there an "apology you never got" that you need to let go of?
 - This week: Pray daily, *"Lord, help me forgive as You have forgiven me."*
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Closing Prayer

Ask God for strength to:

- Receive His forgiveness fully
- Release forgiveness freely
- Represent forgiveness boldly