



COMMUNITY Groups

June 11th, 2017: AS WE FORGIVE

OPENING

- Share something from your family growing up that was a little thing that bugged you. (ex. Sister hogged the bathroom, or brother didn't flush the toilet)
- This week is all about forgiveness. Why do you think it can be hard to forgive others?

DISCUSS & APPLY

Read Colossians 3:13

- What is God's forgiveness like? What did it cost him? What would it look like for us to forgive others like God forgave us?
- Are there places in your life where it's hard for you to feel forgiven? Why do you think it's hard to forgive others when you don't feel forgiven yourself?
- "Hurt people hurt people." What does this mean and how have you seen it? How can someone be released from this cycle? Compare and contrast this statement to the idea that "Forgiven people forgive people."

Read Matthew 6:12-15 and Luke 6:37

- Why is forgiving others important for our relationship with God? How does it impact our prayers?
- What happens when we forgive others? What about when we don't forgive others?
- Share an example of how you have experienced the freedom of forgiveness. What about when you harbored resentment?
- What are some things that you see in people that cause you to say "I can't believe he/she.... I would never...."? Is there any hint of that thing you resent in others in you?
- How do you think God feels when we ask for forgiveness while refusing to forgive others? Why is it hard to receive forgiveness when we won't forgive someone else?
- What is the difference between repressing and suppressing our hurt? Why are these easier than admitting our hurts?
- When Eric said that forgiveness is a process, not a one-time occurrence, what did he mean? How does understanding the way God forgives us help us with this process?

Read 1 Samuel 7:12

- What do you think the significance was of setting up an Ebenezer stone? What are some ways today that we establish ways of remembering significant things God has done? How can baptism and communion be like modern day "Ebenezers"?
- What are some ways the Lord has helped you? How can you set up "Ebenezers" to help you remember?



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FINAL APPLICATION

Evaluate all my relationships, offer forgiveness to those who've hurt me and make amends for harm I've done to others except when to do so would harm them or others.

- By show of hands, how many of us have been hurt in the past? In same gender groups, take some time to discuss some specific people and hurts that we have experienced. List as many as you can think of. Then, determine at least one person that each person needs to go and forgive or ask forgiveness. Afterwards, thank God for forgiveness and ask for his help and healing as you forgive.