

Life Group STUDY GUIDE

What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP.
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

PURSUING LIFE TOGETHER SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW

NOTE to the Life Group Leader: This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

OPEN IN PRAYER

STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

CONNECTION

“Forgiveness”

“Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”
Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” Matthew 6:12 (KJV)

ὀφείλω = ophailō - “To owe... metaphorically: to offend or sin against”

“Then Peter came to him (Jesus) and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” Matthew 18:21
(NLT)

Tests to see if there’s someone you need to forgive:

- The Gut Test
- The Happiness Test
- The Thought and/or Talk Test

“No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!” Matthew 18:22 (NLT)

“Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars.” Matthew 18:23-24 (NLT)

“He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.”
Matthew 18:25 (NLT)

“But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’” Matthew 18:26 (NLT)

“Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt.”
Matthew 18:27 (NLT)

Why should I forgive those who have hurt me?

1. Because God has forgiven me.

“All have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious ideal; yet now God declares us “not guilty” of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins.”

Romans 3:23-26 (Living Bible)

You’ll never have to forgive anybody else more than God’s already forgiven you.

When you really feel forgiven you’re going to be forgiving to others.

“But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.”

Matthew 18:28-29 (NLT)

When I feel unforgiven, I am unforgiving.

2. Because resentment is a form of self-torture

“When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.”

Matthew 18:31-34 (NLT)

3. Because I need forgiveness in my life

“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Matthew 18:35 (NLT)

How do I forgive my debtors?

- Make sure you let God repay those who deserve it

“...Never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God, for he has said that he will repay those who deserve it.”

Romans 12:19 (LB)

- Make sure you respond to God's grace

“Be careful that none of you fails to respond to the grace which God gives, for if he does there can very easily spring up in him a bitter spirit which is not only bad in itself but can also poison the lives of many others.”

Hebrews 12:15 (Ph)