

## **Forgiveness**

Profound Principles about Forgiveness from God's Word

### **Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.**

- This week we took a break from our Psalms study to talk about the topic of Biblical Forgiveness. Much of what the Bible has to say on this subject is radical. What are some of the more radical or unusual ideas that Jesus challenges us with on this topic? What principles run counter cultural to the world around us?

### **Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.**

- Jesus taught us that while we are trusting in God to forgive our sins, that we also must actively be forgiving others of their sins against us. We learned that forgiveness finds its foundation in the gospel. In fact, scripture teaches us that if we want forgiveness for our own sins, that we must be forgivers of the sins of others. How does the gospel make forgiveness a mandatory practice in a Believer's life, and not an optional one?
- Sometimes the people who we need to forgive never ask us for it. They may be unaware of the need to ask for our forgiveness, unmoved by the need for forgiveness, indifferent, or they may be deceased or no longer participating in our lives. We learned that forgiveness is as much for us as it is for the offender. How did we learn to respond when we've been offended, but when the other person never asks for our forgiveness? Is it ok to hold a grudge until they ask for forgiveness? Why, or why not?
- We learned that forgiveness needs to be a priority in our life...so much so that Jesus taught us to leave worship...to leave our offering at the altar, to first be reconciled to one another, and then to return to worship. If forgiveness is more important to God than even our worship, what does that tell us about the need to prioritize forgiveness in our own lives?
- What did the Bible say about the number of times that we should forgive someone who offends us? Does it square with scripture to keep score of someone's offenses and to give them a limit of permissible offenses...like a three strikes you're out plan? How does our vertical relationship with Jesus impact forgiveness on the horizontal to those around us?

### **Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:**

- Ephesians 4:32
- Psalm 103:12

*Topical: Various Texts*

- Colossians 3:13
- Matthew 18:21-22

**Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?**

- Is there someone in your life who needs your forgiveness? Perhaps you have been holding a grudge and God is showing you that it's time to let it go. What would God say to you about this in light of our study this week?
- Is there someone from whom you need forgiveness? Perhaps the Lord would lead you to embrace these principles and go in search of pardon from another.