

Why do we confess?

- Sin _____ our relationship with God—even after we get “_____.”
(Psalm 51:1-6, 1 John 1:8, 10, Matthew 6:12)
- To restore the relationship, we need to _____ what we have done.
(Leviticus 5:2-5, 1 John 1:9)
- To restore the relationship, we need to _____—_____ from our sin.
(Leviticus 5:6)

Why do we forgive?

- To restore the relationship, we need to _____ that we are _____.
(Leviticus 5:10)
- God has assured us in Scripture that he will _____ when we _____ and _____. (1 John 1:9-2:1)
- God uses his people to offer _____ to the world
(2 Corinthians 5:17-6:1).

What does “Confession and Reconciliation” do?

- The act of confession trains us to _____ ourselves _____.
- The act of confession _____ the _____.
- The act of confession reconciles us _____.
(John 20:21-23, Matthew 18:18, James 5:13-16)
- The act of confession reconciles us to _____.
(Mark 11:25, Matthew 6:12)

Conclusion

- Following Jesus means being honest about our _____—and his _____!
- As God’s people we have the _____—and _____—to share God’s forgiveness.
- Confession and forgiveness have the power to transform _____, _____, and the _____.

Small Group Questions

1. GETTING STARTED:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- What do you normally say when people apologize to you? Why do you respond that way?

2. INTO THE BIBLE (READ MATTHEW 18:21-35)

- Why do you think Peter asked Jesus about forgiveness? As a follower of Jesus, what put this question on his mind?
- In the parable, why was the king so angry? Why did the servant's behavior in his personal business matter to the king?
- What does this parable tell us about how our relationship with God is meant to influence our relationship with others?
- What does verse 35 mean?

3. GOING DEEPER

- What does it feel like to be forgiven? What kind of power is there in telling people their sins are forgiven?
- How can we as believers use absolution (forgiving people on God's behalf) to minister to them? Is it possible to misuse absolution?
- What would it look like for you to always forgive others the way God forgives us? How would that change your relationships?

4. PRAYER

- Take a moment to silently confess your sins. Then pray for each other, that God would forgive them and restore them, and help them to forgive others.