



GOING DEEPER

February 29 & March 1, 2020

Title: Discovering the Genius of Jesus Series – Week 6 “Forgiveness”

Teacher: Pastor Tim

Selected Texts: Matthew 18:21-35 (focal point, v.21-22)

Jesus reveals the freedom that comes from forgiving. We must see:

- 1) Forgiveness is not so much an act as it is a posture
- 2) Forgiveness is not so much about them as it is about you
- 3) Forgiveness is not so much about what has happened to you as it is about what has happened for you

Discussion Questions:

The teaching on forgiveness is almost impossible to consider in a theoretical or abstract way. It is intensely personal and practical. If you are doing this study alone, be very, very specific. If you are discussing this in your small group, use discernment in how much you share but be generous in your authenticity.

You were asked in the message to think about who’s name immediately comes to your mind when you hear the topic of forgiveness. Discuss who, or what comes to your mind on this topic. How long has this person/situation been on your mind? Why is this person/situation a sticky point for you?

(Leaders: help your group discern the appropriate level of sharing. Some conversations around forgiveness become susceptible to gossip/slander/blame)

(1) Why do you think most of us have such a strong tendency to focus on the wrong done to us and on the attitude of the person who perpetuated the wrong (e.g. “They didn’t even say sorry”) rather than on our own response?

- (2)** The message drew 2 direct links:
- a. the direct link between freedom and forgiving
 - b. the direct link between being forgiven and forgiving

Discuss both concepts and how you have seen evidence of them in your own experience.

(3) What role do the other relationships in your life (family, friends, church, etc.) play in you being able to practice forgiveness? Who can support you in your posture of forgiveness?

(4) When you experience giving forgiveness, we discover what God has for you. Describe what things you see changed or transformed in your life.

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- Praise God for 3 people who made commitments to follow Jesus during Alpha's Holy Spirit Day
- Pray for those affected by COVID-19 and
- Pray for those experiencing separation or divorce; walking a journey they did not plan
- Pray for our students and families as they prepare to head into March break
- Pray for our upcoming Prayer Summit, March 31, that God would prepare our hearts & minds and move in amazing ways