

This guide is intended to help you be better prepared to make disciples in your small group. It is based on the Sunday sermon listed in the top right corner. If you missed Sunday, make sure you listen to the sermon before your small group meeting. The messages are also on our website.

Prayerfully considering these questions will help equip you to practice mutual ministry with your family at Vertical. While it's not likely that all of these questions will be asked during your small group meeting, we believe that your personal walk with Christ will be strengthened as you meditate upon the truths that God is teaching you through His Word.

Run to God

1. Think of a time you were hurt by someone and how you responded. Did that experience drive you closer or further away from the Lord? How did God shape you in that situation?
2. Who do you tend to run to first when you have been wronged? What changes can you make to help you run to God first?

Remember Your Own Forgiven State

3. David heard Shimei say "I have sinned"...the same words he once said to Nathan. How did remembering his own need for forgiveness shape David's response? Can you think of a time when remembering your own forgiveness helped you forgive someone else?
4. Read Ephesians 4:32 and Luke 7:47. How does the amount of forgiveness we've received affect our ability to forgive others?
5. Pastor Joe said, "People who remember what God has forgiven them of don't need to squeeze justice out of every situation." Do you agree? Why or why not? How can we balance a desire for justice with the call to forgive?

Resolve to Forgive

6. Do you find it difficult to forgive when reconciliation is not happening? How can you demonstrate forgiveness when the person who wronged you has not changed?
7. Pastor Joe provided 5 steps on "How to Forgive": Initiate, release the debt, stop prosecuting the case, choose kindness, and entrust the outcome to God. Which step is a strength of yours? Which step do you need improvement in, and why?
8. Think of a time when you have forgiven someone, and yet reconciliation did not occur. How were you able to experience freedom in forgiveness despite not having reconciliation?
9. Are you carrying a burden of unforgiveness you were never meant to carry? If so, what is the next right step towards forgiveness?
10. How does forgiving someone as an act of obedience, rather than a feeling, influence your decisions when you have been wronged?