



Forgiveness
By Joe Testa

Life Group Leader Notes
August 23 & 24, 2014

Quick Thoughts

Forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel and the Christian faith. The key to forgiving others and yourself is wrapped up in the fact that God has already forgiven you. He has wiped out all of your sin debt (a huge debt) giving you the ability to turn around and forgive others.

Scripture

Matthew 18:21-35

Links/Resources

The Gift of Forgiveness, by Charles Stanley

Questions

1. Read Matthew 18:21-35. How difficult is it for you to connect with the fact that you've been forgiven by Jesus for a debt you could never repay on your own?
2. How does that reality speak or inform your ability to forgive someone who hurts you?
3. If you think it's appropriate to share (and don't use specific names), can you think of a time that you've needed to forgive someone? What do you think made giving forgiveness so challenging in that situation?
4. What do you think about the idea of freely forgiving someone, regardless of whether they ask for forgiveness or are repentant? Why do you think this is an important point in this discussion?
5. When it comes to forgiveness, the point was made that forgiving someone isn't based on how we feel and it doesn't mean that you act as if you've never been hurt. Forgiveness is about releasing someone or setting them free from an obligation to you that is a result of a wrong done to you. When you evaluate your life, can you think of anyone you may need to forgive (don't use names) and how can we help you in that process?
6. What do you think about the idea of unforgiveness becoming bitterness? What do you think about the idea that a root of bitterness greatly affects those around us – even defiling those around us?
7. How do you think reveling in the gospel and its impact in your life changes the way you think about forgiveness?