

INTRO

This week, we are exploring the forgiveness portion of the Lord's Prayer, examining how it invites us to mirror God's radical forgiveness in our relationships with others.

What relationships in your life currently feel strained or broken? How do you typically respond when someone hurts or offends you?

IDEA 1

Rob presented forgiveness as more than just personal grace we receive from God—it's a transformative action that reshapes communities and unleashes peace.

How do you relate to the idea that forgiveness is a "heart posture and release towards someone else" rather than just forgetting what happened?

Think about a time when you experienced the freedom that comes from forgiving someone. What changed in you?

What's the difference between genuine forgiveness and mere tolerance or condoning of harmful behavior?

IDEA 2

Jesus connects our receiving forgiveness from God with our extending forgiveness to others, showing they are inseparable aspects of Kingdom living.

What does the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:23-35) reveal about God's character and His expectations for us?

How does the image of God "trampling our sins under His feet and throwing them into the depths of the ocean" (Micah 7:18-20) speak to your current circumstances?

In what ways might unforgiveness be creating a barrier between you and God?

IDEA 3

The sermon challenges us to see all people as image-bearers of God, worthy of forgiveness even when we deeply disagree with them.

How comfortable are you with honestly examining areas where you might be dehumanizing others who hold different views?

What could it look like to pray for and engage with someone you strongly disagree with, seeing them as created in God's image?

EXPERIENCING GOD TOGETHER

Take some time to sit together in silence for 2 minutes, pondering the questions:

- What is one burden of unforgiveness I need to release today?
- How might God be inviting me to see this person through His eyes?
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Spend time sharing your honest responses to those questions with the group (or break into small groups)

Pray for one another, focusing on receiving God's forgiveness and extending it to others.

Close by having one person read Micah 7:18-20 over the group as a reminder of God's forgiveness toward us.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

This week, look for opportunities to share stories of forgiveness rather than stories of hurt.

When you feel offended or hurt, practice praying the Lord's Prayer with special attention to "forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us."

Consider reaching out to a trained peacemaker or elder if you're struggling with a particularly difficult situation requiring forgiveness.