

Small Groups

Leader Conversation Guide – Forgive Them Anyway

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Mark brought us Part 2 of our series, “You Asked for It,” and discussed the second-most requested topic: Forgiveness. Forgiveness is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian but for many of us, it’s one of the hardest virtues. Even Jesus’ disciples asked for their faith to be increased so they could forgive as they were told to do. So why is such a vital command so difficult for us? Because- offense never stops. To forgive, we need to believe four things the Bible teaches us about forgiveness: 1. Forgiveness is freely received and freely given. 2. Forgiveness is rejecting our right for repayment. 3. Forgiveness is our pathway to healing. 4. Forgiveness is a requirement for Christians. Today, let’s “increase our faith” so that no matter what offense we face, we can forgive!

Make It Practical

- We can forgive by resolving to trust God. We trust God with our forgiveness through salvation, so we can trust Him with our forgiveness towards others. We will understand this more the closer we get to Him through His Word and prayer.
- We can forgive by releasing unconditional forgiveness. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us see who we may need to forgive- including ourselves.
- We can forgive by returning evil for good. We need to allow God to be God and realize that we don’t HAVE to do good, we GET to do good.
- We can forgive by relying on God to redeem. God always has a redemption plan. We can trust God, forgive unconditionally, do good, and see the miracle of redemption!

“Then He said to the disciples, ‘It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall

forgive him.’ And the apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith.’”

Luke 17:1.3-5 NKJV

Talk about It

1. Of the ways we can forgive, which is most difficult for you, and why? Discuss as a group.
2. How does it make you feel to know that of all the things Jesus gave His disciples to do, forgiveness is the one thing that caused them to ask for their faith to be increased? Why do you think that is and how does it relate to your personal experiences?
3. Considering areas of unforgiveness that you may have within yourself or see in culture today, what are some practical ways we can “do good?”

“People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you.

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight.

Build anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God. It was never between you and them anyway.” Mother Teresa

Prayer

Father, increase our faith so we can freely forgive, do good, and see your redemption plan come to life again and again in people’s lives. Holy Spirit, help us identify areas of unforgiveness in our lives and trust God

through the process of forgiveness. We know Your ways are better than our ways and choose to believe that no matter what offenses may come, we will forgive! In Your mighty name, Amen!

Leader Tips

Forgiveness can be a very weighty topic for some, depending on their personal experiences. Be sensitive to this as you lead group but encourage them with full faith of God's redeeming power!