



## LEADER CONVERSATION GUIDE – A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### MAIN IDEA

“A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” has a powerful story of forgiveness in the wake of great pain and betrayal. Pairing his message with clips from this movie, Pastor Chris emphasized the importance of forgiveness. We think holding a grudge punishes the person who offended us, but instead, we are the ones in chains. When we surrender our wounds to God and forgive those who have hurt us, we can be free.

### MAKE IT PRACTICAL

- We need to check our hearts to see if we’re carrying bitterness from old offenses and surrender that pain to God. If we still get angry when we think about someone who offended us, it’s likely that we are holding on to unforgiveness.
- We need to extend compassion to those who have hurt us, knowing that we, too, are sinners who need God’s forgiveness.
- We need to forgive, just as God has forgiven us through Jesus. If we ask Him for help, the Holy Spirit will empower us to release those who have hurt us to God.

**“LAY ASIDE BITTER WORDS, TEMPER TANTRUMS, REVENGE, PROFANITY, AND INSULTS. BUT INSTEAD BE KIND AND AFFECTIONATE TOWARD ONE ANOTHER. HAS GOD GRACIOUSLY FORGIVEN YOU? THEN GRACIOUSLY FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER IN THE DEPTHS OF CHRIST’S LOVE.”**

*EPHESIANS 4:31-32TPT*

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. When you think about the things that have happened over the course of your life, do you get angry about anything in particular? Talk about any bitterness you’re still holding on to.
2. Who has been instrumental in shaping you throughout your life, whether good or bad? Since God works all things together for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28), can you see the good that came out of it, even if what they did was harmful?
3. Discuss why forgiveness is difficult, and then talk about why it’s important. Share a time when the Holy Spirit empowered you to forgive someone when you couldn’t do it on your own.



**HOLDING A GRUDGE DOESN'T MAKE YOU STRONG. IT MAKES YOU BITTER. FORGIVING DOESN'T MAKE YOU WEAK, IT SETS YOU FREE."**

**- DAVID WILLIS**

### **PRAYER**

Jesus, thank You for giving Your life on the cross so that we could be forgiven. We recognize that because You forgave us, we need to extend that forgiveness and grace to others. Holy Spirit, help us to truly forgive and release those who have hurt us. Heal our hearts of any bitterness or pain we still carry from what we've experienced. Thank You for making it possible for us to be free from the chains of those offenses.

### **LEADERSHIP TIPS**

Challenge a few specific group members to pray about leading a Small Group next semester. Many people don't step out to lead until someone encourages them and affirms God's calling on their life. Be that person for your group members.

