



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What/Where is the most terrifying height
you have ever been on?

1. Pastor Tom said that “God desires to forgive you”, and does so “unreservedly”, “instantaneously”, and “totally”. Which of these truths about God’s forgiveness is most amazing to you and why?
2. Pastor Tom said, “we need to understand that God’s mercy is not a one-way street (God towards us).” Read **Matthew 5:7**, **Proverbs 11:25**, **Matthew 6:14**; **18:33**, **James 2:13**, **Micah 6:8**, and **James 3:17**. What is God’s expectation of those to whom He has shown mercy and how well have you carried it out?
3. Read **Ephesians 4:32** and **Colossians 3:12-14** in the New Living Translation. What key words do you find in both passages and how do they relate to God’s forgiveness and how we are to forgive?
4. Pastor Tom emphasized that forgiveness needs to be unconditional, but trusting again must be earned. In your experience, what is the difference between forgiving someone and trusting them again and how has that played out in your life?
5. Pastor Tom reminded us that “Unforgiveness creates an undertow in your life that takes you places you don’t want to go”, and that rather than “repaying, replaying it, resentment, or revenge” we need to “release it to God” by choosing to forgive (**Colossians 3:13**). Tell of a time when you felt release and healing when you chose to forgive.

PERSONAL GUIDE

Day One: [Matthew 8](#); [Psalm 97](#)

Day Two: [Leviticus 7](#); [Proverbs 4](#)

Day Three: [1 Corinthians 3](#); [2 Samuel 17](#)

Day Four: [1 Peter 5](#); [Jeremiah 31](#)

Day Five: [Job 35](#); [Acts 13](#)

*This Personal Guide has been
adapted from Professor Grant
Horner’s Bible Reading System.*



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH



Current Series

Daily
Fail

Message Notes

“Failure Doesn’t Have to Have the Last Word”

- Part 2 -

Nov 24, 2024 • Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



MESSAGE NOTES

"Failure Doesn't Have to Have the Last Word" - Part 2

Nov 24, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

God's mercy impacts _____ aspect of our lives and every single one of our relationships.

While mercy is one of the _____ attributes of God, it's not always the easiest thing to really understand and fully get our arms around.

- We desperately want it for _____, but...
- ...but we are less likely to want to see others receive it, either from _____ or even from God.

God's mercy shows us that:

1. Jesus Doesn't Give Up on Us

2. God Forgives Me

- A. He desires to forgive me.
- B. He unreservedly forgives me.
- C. He instantaneously forgives me.
- D. He totally forgives me.

Today we need to understand that God's mercy is not a one way street (_____ towards us), but it also needs to be something that flows from God to our _____ and then to others who also need mercy.

Note **Matthew 5:7; Proverbs 11:25; Matthew 6:14, 18:33; James 2:13; Micah 6:8; James 3:17**

So if mercy means that I forgive others, too, how can that happen?

3. I Forgive _____

Forgiveness is:

- A. Not _____ - we cannot try to make others _____ our forgiveness or even ask it from us. Also, _____ will not help us to forgive others in the long run (note **Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-14**).
- B. Not _____ - *forgive and forget* _____ a Bible verse (note **Hebrews 8:12; 2 Timothy 4:14-15**).
- C. Not _____ - trust, unlike forgiveness, is _____. Trust takes time and evidence of _____.
- D. _____ it to God (note **Colossians 3:13b**) - we start to _____ by not repaying, not replaying it, resentment, or revenge. Unforgiveness creates an _____ in your life that takes you places you don't want to go. Holding onto a hurt eventually turns it into a _____. Holding onto bitterness makes you start to _____ the person you're bitter towards. Forgiveness = to offer the gift of grace..._____/setting free.

Am I welcoming God's mercy into my life?

- The _____ work of mercy is forgiveness.
- Mercy and forgiveness isn't about us; it's about God and what _____.

Tell us about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!
App: Message Notes/Connect Card Or: **MYRC.LINK/CONNECT**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



MESSAGE NOTES

"Failure Doesn't Have to Have the Last Word" - Part 2

Nov 24, 2024
Pastor Tom Lundeen

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While mercy is one of the primary attributes of God, it's not always the easiest thing to really understand and fully get our arms around.

- We desperately want it for ourselves, but...
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Today we need to understand that God's mercy is not a one way street (God towards us), but it also needs to be something that flows from God to our heart and then to others who also need mercy.

Note **Matthew 5:7; Proverbs 11:25; Matthew 6:14, 18:33; James 2:13; Micah 6:8; James 3:17**

So if mercy means that I forgive others, too, how can that happen?

3. I Forgive Others

Forgiveness is:

- A. Not conditional - we cannot try to make others earn our forgiveness or even ask it from us. Also, guilt will not help us to forgive others in the long run (note **Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12-14**).
- B. Not forgetting - *forgive and forget* isn't a Bible verse (note **Hebrews 8:12; 2 Timothy 4:14-15**).
- C. Not trusting - trust, unlike forgiveness, is earned. Trust takes time and evidence of change.
- D. Releasing it to God (note **Colossians 3:13b**) - we start to heal by not repaying, not replaying it, resentment, or revenge. Unforgiveness creates an undertow in your life that takes you places you don't want to go. Holding onto a hurt eventually turns it into a hate. Holding onto bitterness makes you start to resemble the person you're bitter towards. Forgiveness = *to offer the gift of grace...releasing/setting free*.

Am I welcoming God's mercy into my life?

- The primary work of mercy is forgiveness.
- Mercy and forgiveness isn't about us; it's about God and what He's done.

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