

Forgiven People Forgive People
Life Group Discussion Questions
Sunday, August 31

Announcements:

New Saturday Night Service September 6 at 5:00 PM

New Life Group Opportunities: 6:30 PM Tuesday, September 9

Marriage Workshop: Friday - Saturday, September 26-27

Bible Reading

Matthew 5:23-24 (ESV)

Genesis 50:15-21

Observation Questions

1. According to Matthew 5:23-24, what does Jesus say should take priority over gifts and offerings?
2. In Genesis 50, what do Joseph's brothers fear after their father dies, and how do they approach Joseph about it? (Reminder, it had been at least 20 years since they last spoke).
3. How does Joseph respond emotionally and practically to his brothers' request for forgiveness?

Interpretation Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus places reconciliation with others above bringing gifts or acts of service to God? What does this reveal about God's priorities?
2. Forgiveness is "voluntary suffering" and "canceling the debt." Why is forgiveness described this way, and how does it reflect what God has done for us?
3. Joseph says, "Am I in the place of God?" when his brothers ask for forgiveness. What does this statement mean about our role in seeking justice or revenge?
4. The sermon says forgiveness is a decision, not a feeling. Why is it important to make the decision to forgive before feeling peace?

Application Questions

1. "Who comes to mind when you do an "Anger Audit" and think about unresolved anger or hurt in your life? What would it look like to take a first step toward forgiveness with that person?

2. Forgiveness is described as costly and unfair. Can you think of a time when you forgave someone even though it didn't feel fair? How did that decision affect you?
 3. Joseph's story shows that forgiveness doesn't always restore relationships to what they once were, but it does set us free. Is there a relationship in your life where forgiveness might not mean full restoration, but could still bring freedom from bitterness?
 4. The world is watching how Christians handle forgiveness. How might your decision to forgive someone be a testimony to others about Christ's love?
 5. Is there a story of forgiveness—either from your own life or someone you know—that has inspired you? How can you let that example encourage you to take a step toward forgiveness this week?
-

Pray as a Group, taking requests for courage to offer and receive forgiveness from others.
