

FORGIVEN & FORGIVING

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LEADER'S NOTES: In this season we are addressing how only God's love can reach deeply enough into our souls to restore our lives. This is the place where we begin finding confidence and strength to love God and to love others as we love ourselves because we have learned to love ourselves.

THE POINT: God's love unlocks our lives. We are taking two weeks here to focus on the power of forgiveness and the dangers of unforgiveness.

The mindset of our culture gives us permission to cling to our resentment, broken relationships, and unresolved conflicts, but the Word of God gives us a higher standard.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is the difference in the way the world looks at forgiveness and the way God's Word sees it?
2. When it comes to forgiveness how are you at letting things go so you can stay free?

Forgiving others may be simple for you or it may be a struggle. God wants us to forgive just as we have been forgiven. The cost of forgiveness is great, but Jesus has already paid the price. The road of forgiveness leads to blessing and Jesus will give you the strength and courage you need to walk it out. His sacrificial example should be our ultimate goal.

Matt 6:9-15 *This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' 14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. NIV*

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

3. The only part of the Lord's Prayer Jesus reiterates is forgiveness. Why do you think this is so important to God?

1 John 3:16 *We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. NIV*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

4. Sympathy from others can provide a sense of temporary relief when we've been wronged. But only forgiveness provides lasting relief and release. Why do you think people are content to wallow in self-pity when the release of forgiveness is available?
5. The unwillingness to forgive keeps us in a victim mindset? How does a "victim mentality" affect our ability to respond to circumstances in our lives?

We Bring GP2RL Action Point:

Take some time in prayer before God this week and ask Him to help you let anything go that might be holding you back.