

LIFE Group Discussion Sheet
The Power of Forgiving

Ice-Breaker: Who from your past would you least like to meet up with again?

1. Forgiveness feels great—as long as we're the beneficiaries. We like being forgiven, but it's not always easy to offer forgiveness. What holds people back from forgiving?
2. What reasons have you used to resist forgiving another person?
3. According to Matthew 6:15, if we refuse to forgive another person, what do Jesus' words force us to conclude about ourselves?
4. Should forgiveness excuse the other person from the consequences of their actions?
5. What are the benefits of forgiving others for the one who forgives?
6. Some have read Matthew 6:15 and concluded that God's forgiveness is *earned* by our own forgiveness of others. Others believe that our forgiveness of other people is the *evidence* that God has forgiven us. Explain why you agree or disagree with either view.
7. According to 1 John 1:8-9, when and how does God forgive us? Is it unconditional?
8If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
8. In Luke 17:3-4 Jesus offers a very high standard of forgiveness. If you could ask Jesus some questions about this teaching what would they be. "Yes Lord, but..."
"If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. 4If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."
9. Why does Jesus make forgiveness such a crucial issue for his followers?
10. Who do you need to forgive tonight? Are you ready to do that?

How can we pray for you?