

ASKING FOR A "FRIEND"



Leader Conversation Guide – Asking for a Friend: Forgiveness

Main Idea

This week, Pastor Jeff delivered a powerful message on the transformative nature of forgiveness, rooted deeply in the teachings of Scripture. He reminded us that true biblical forgiveness is inseparable from the Kingdom of God and the King Himself. Drawing from passages like Matthew 6:14-15 and Colossians 3:13, Pastor Jeff emphasized that forgiveness is not optional for followers of Christ, but a vital expression of God's grace at work in us. He also encouraged us to trust in God's justice, reminding us that we reap what we sow and that God alone is in control. As we reflect on the call to forgive as Christ forgave us, let's explore how we can live out this kingdom value in our daily lives.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

COLOSSIANS 3:13

Make It Practical:

Definition of Forgiveness: Biblical forgiveness means "sending away" and cannot be separated from the Kingdom of God or the King.

The Kingdom of God: It is described as an "alien kingdom" where God's ways differ from human logic, such as loving enemies and forgiving those who wrong us (Matthew 5:38-45).

Forgiveness as a Command: Jesus commands us to forgive as He has forgiven us (Colossians 3:13, Ephesians 4:32). Forgiveness is of utmost importance in God's Kingdom (Matthew 6:14-15).

Reaping What You Sow: God promises justice and asks us to leave vengeance to Him (Romans 12:19, Hebrews 10:30). Forgiveness reflects whether we or God are in control of our lives.

Trust in God's Justice: We can forgive because God will do what we cannot—He will judge and bring justice in His time.

Victory Through Jesus: Forgiving like Jesus requires remembering what He did for us on the cross, granting us victory through His sacrifice (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Talk About It

- What does true biblical forgiveness look like, and how does it relate to the Kingdom of God? (Refer to John 1:12-13 and Galatians 3:3 to discuss how forgiveness is connected to being transformed into children of God.)
- Jesus calls us to love our enemies and forgive those who hurt us. What practical steps can we take to cultivate a heart of forgiveness, even when it's difficult? (Use Matthew 5:38-45 and Colossians 3:13 to explore this further.)
- How does trusting God to bring justice help us let go of resentment and practice forgiveness? (Discuss Romans 12:19 and Hebrews 10:30 to reflect on how releasing control can lead to true forgiveness.)

True Biblical Forgiveness cannot be separated from the Kingdom or the King.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of forgiveness that we have through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to follow His example by forgiving others just as You have forgiven us. We trust that You are in control and that You will bring justice in Your perfect time. Holy Spirit, as we strive to love our enemies and let go of bitterness, fill our hearts with compassion and grace. May we live each day in a way that reflects Your Kingdom, surrendering fully to Your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Leader Tip

Reframe 2025 registration is open! Ladies can now register to join us for this incredible weekend in March!