



most requested

Leader Conversation Guide – Most Requested: Forgiveness

Main Idea

Forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel. We were not saved because we deserved it or because of the good things we had done, but because of God's mercy. When we understand how much we have been forgiven, it changes the way we love God and the way we respond to people who have hurt us.

Forgiveness does not mean forgetting what happened or pretending the hurt did not matter. It means choosing not to allow bitterness to take root in our hearts. Sometimes that choice has to be made again and again. This week's message challenges us to remember the forgiveness we have received from Jesus and allow His grace to shape the forgiveness we extend to others.

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:

Forgiven much loves much.

- Remembering God's mercy changes the way we respond to Him and others.
- Luke 7:47

Forgiveness absorbs the cost.

- Forgiving does not mean forgetting; it means choosing not to hold the debt over another person.
- Matthew 6:12

Forgiveness and reconciliation are different.

- We can choose forgiveness while recognizing that restoring a relationship may require more.
- Romans 12:18

Talk About It

Why do you think it is important to remember that our struggle is “not against flesh and blood”? How might that change the way we respond to difficult people or circumstances?

Which of these responses to circumstances—disappointment leading to doubt, pain leading to bitterness, delay leading to discouragement, or suffering leading to unbelief—do you think can be easiest to experience? Why?

What would it look like for your faith to remain strong even if God doesn’t answer a particular prayer in the way you hope?

**Forgiveness is a decision we make,
and then we keep making it.**

Prayer

Father, thank You for the forgiveness and mercy You have given us through Jesus. Help us remember how much we have been forgiven and give us the grace to extend that same forgiveness to others. Keep bitterness from taking root in our hearts and help us choose forgiveness, even when it is difficult. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Next Steps

Remember: Take time this week to reflect on how God has forgiven you.

Release: Identify a hurt or offense you are still carrying and make the decision to forgive.

Repeat: When the hurt resurfaces, choose forgiveness again rather than allowing bitterness to grow.