

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Importance of Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35

Group Opener: (Choose a question for the group to discuss.)

How many credit cards do you have? When does your credit card tempt you the most?

Group Facilitator – It is not necessary to use all the questions. Select questions that will best fit your group.

DIG:

1. Offenders in Jesus' day were forgiven up to three times: a fourth offense need not be forgiven. What does Jesus' answer say about forgiveness in the kingdom?
2. How does the parable of the unmerciful servant extend Jesus' teaching on forgiveness (vv. 23-35)? In refusing to be merciful to others, what do we deny ourselves (vv. 31-34)?
3. How does Jesus point in verse 35 compare with Matt. 6:12? Do we forgive others so God will forgive us, or does God forgive us so that we will have a forgiving attitude? Explain.
4. Based on this parable, is God's forgiveness of us limited or unlimited? Conditional or unconditional? Likewise, our forgiveness of others?
5. In summary, what does Jesus teach in chapter 18 about sin and forgiveness?

REFLECT:

1. What has driven home the importance of forgiveness to you? How can we forgive, yet not encourage irresponsibility?
2. How can you forgive someone from the distant past who hurt you deeply?
3. What is the connection between forgiveness, health and wholeness?