



September 18, 2022 | David Smith
FORGIVENESS FOR EVERYONE

All of us, at some point in our lives, realize that we can't do it on our own. That is why prayer is our best work.

MEETING AGENDA

ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

Sometimes our prayers are not answered how we think they will be or should be. In hindsight, what are some prayers you can reflect on and be thankful for that were not answered according to how you prayed them?

INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Anchor Verses: Luke 11:1-13

Do you feel confused when the Bible says to ask for forgiveness and that believers are forgiven once and forever? How do you understand the difference between receiving forgiveness and asking for forgiveness? This week we will return to Jesus teaching the disciples how to pray in the book of Luke and see how prayer is the key to everything we need to be and do with God as we learn to ask for forgiveness and forgive others.

INTO THE WORD (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Luke 11:4 and 1 John 1:9. Why do you think it is so important that we forgive others in combination with God's forgiveness of our sins?
2. Why does asking God for forgiveness lead directly to our ability to forgive others? Read Matthew 18:21-35 to be reminded how inconsistent people can be. Granting forgiveness is one of the most vital expressions of love. Do you find it easier to forgive those who are closest to you? What about someone you barely know?
3. Read Isaiah 43:18 -19 and consider what God says about letting go of the pain others may have caused us in the past. Jesus further explained this point in Luke 9:62, when He told us not to dwell on the past. How can prayer help us put aside bitterness and anger to forgive others so that we may move forward and enjoy the blessings God has for us in the present?

APPLICATION (25 MINUTES)

1. Read Luke 11:4 and Matthew 6:14-15. Think of things others have done to you which have been difficult to forgive. What are some ways that we can forgive others in those situations?
2. Proverbs 15:18 reminds us that conflict has two different approaches. Think of an example of unforgiveness or one-way forgiveness that you or someone you know has experienced, perhaps leading to months or years of strained and broken relationships where restoration and reconciliation have not been achieved. How are the parties in these situations negatively impacted? What can we always do when it seems like there is nothing we can do?
3. In Galatians 5:22-23, we read that peace is one of the fruits of the spirit. The Hebrew word Shalom means peace. Shalom also means Hello and Goodbye. Think about how prayer can help you to release hurt and anger from your life by allowing you to forgive someone who may have never apologized to you peacefully. How can say Goodbye free you from the weight of judgment, allowing you to live in peace?

Prayer Prompts (5-10 MINUTES)

Thanksgiving – Thanking God for what He has done [Isaiah 12:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18]

1. As a group, spend 5 minutes sharing things you are grateful to God for in your life. Afterward, close your night in prayer and thank God for using your group's list.
2. This week, listen to a piece of instrumental music and write a prayer of worship or thanks to God. If comfortable, share with the group the following week.

PRAYER (10 MINUTES)

Dear God, we know that forgiveness is an essential part of our prayer lives, and we need your help understanding, extending, and accepting that forgiveness. Please help us to confess and repent when necessary and to get your loving forgiveness. Please help us know how to forgive others in the way you lead us. Thank you for making us alive in Christ through forgiving our sins! In Jesus' name, Amen.