

# Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



## ICEBREAKER (10 MINUTES)

What stood out to you most about the story of Louie Zamperini and his journey of forgiveness?

OR

Often, our family of origin helps shape our ability to give or receive forgiveness. How was forgiveness expressed in your family of origin and how has that influenced your life?

## INTRODUCTION (5-10 MINUTES)

Read Hebrews 6:9-20

Read Luke 7:36-50.

What most stood out to you from this week's sermon?

What is the connection between being tender-hearted and being a forgiving person (Eph. 4:2)?

**Host Guidance:** Being "tender-hearted" points to having a compassionate and empathetic nature, being sensitive to the feelings and needs of others. When someone is tender-hearted, they are more likely to approach situations with understanding and mercy, rather than harshness or judgment. Such a disposition likely leads to a willingness to forgive and overlook mistakes or offenses.

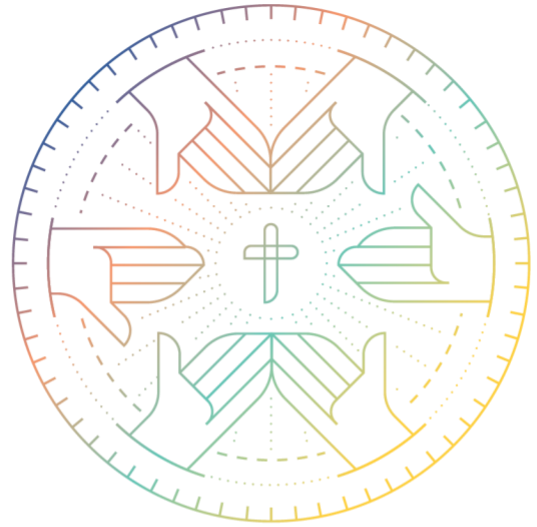
## INTO THE WORD (20 MINUTES)

Read Luke 7:41-50. How many truths, lessons or principles can you and your group draw from this parable?

**Host Guidance:** Some truths might include how forgiveness transforms lives, gratitude flows from forgiveness, how everyone is a sinner, the difference between judgment and compassion, the link between faith and forgiveness, how our actions reflect our heart, and how much God loves us even though we're sinners.

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**Read Psalm 51:1-12.** What does this passage teach us about God? ...about ourselves? ...about sin and forgiveness?

**Host Guidance:** This passage teaches us about the depth of God's mercy and forgiveness, the reality of human sinfulness, the importance of genuine repentance, and the transformative power of seeking forgiveness and restoration. It also highlights the need for humility, brokenness, and a desire for spiritual growth as we navigate our relationship with God.

**Read 1 John 1:9.** How have you practiced the spiritual discipline of confession? Daily? Whenever needed? What impact might it have on your relationship with God and the people around you if you became comfortable with confession as part of your daily experience of God?

**Host Guidance:** Receiving and giving forgiveness can deepen our relationship with God. It will help us to connect deeply with how loving and good God has been to us. We might become more humble, compassionate and empathetic toward others if we become aware of how often we need forgiveness. Our relationship with those around us could become healthier, more transparent and more genuine.

**Read Matthew 6:14-15.** Jared mentioned in his message this is a "heavy" statement. Why? What are the heavy implications of this passage?

**Host Guidance:** The "heavy" implications of Matthew 6:14-15 stem from its profound insights into the nature of forgiveness, divine mercy, accountability, and the inseparable connection between spiritual attitudes and everyday behavior. It challenges us to engage deeply with the transforming power of forgiveness and its significance in shaping our relationship with God and others.

## APPLICATION (15 MINUTES)

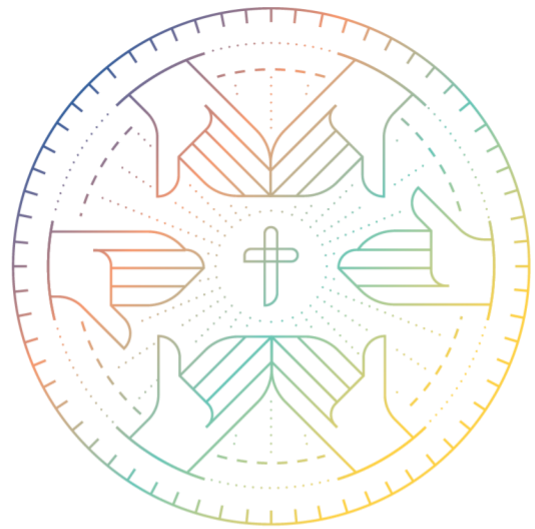
Have you experienced God's forgiveness? How does that affect your ability and willingness to forgive others?

What do you think are the keys to being able to release bitterness and resentment when you've been wronged?

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Is your small group a trusting and loving community in which you can share challenges you have with regard to giving and receiving forgiveness? Is there an issue you are facing or struggling with that you're willing to share with your group for prayer and encouragement?

## **PRAYER (10 MINUTES)**

*Our Savior and Lord Jesus, grant us hearts of forgiveness, for we have received Your boundless mercy. Teach us to let go of bitterness and offenses and embrace compassion. May our actions reflect the forgiveness You've shown us, that we may share Your love and understanding to all those around us. Amen.*