

I am Living Forgiveness

Five heavy burdens God wants to replace in my life

1. The burden of Doubt.

Very Little - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - a Lot

- **Assurance**

2. The burden of Guilt.

Very Little - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - a Lot

- **Peace**

3. The burden of Grudges.

Very Little - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - a Lot

- **Freedom**

4. The burden of Regret.

Very Little - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - a Lot

- **Hope**

5. The burden of Fear.

Very Little - 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 - a Lot

- **Courage**

NEXT STEPS

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation. Join with a life group and continue to grow by using these study questions this week.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

What has been your idea and attitude about church? What experiences have influenced you- good and bad.

What would community (church) look like if you could create it from scratch?

Looking back over your sermon notes, what was one particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged, confused or caught your attention regarding this weekend's teaching?

Digging Deeper

As we dig deeper in living a forgiven life, let's take a close look at the story of the prodigal (meaning rebellious) son or the story is also referred to as the story of the loving father.

Some people focus more on the sin and repentance of the young man than on God's compassion and purposes. Repentance is necessary. But Jesus' rejoicing Father completes, indeed dominates, the picture. When did you first see the joyful side of God's nature?

Read Luke 15:1-10. What provoked Jesus' parables?

In the first two parables the theme of an owner searching for something lost and rejoicing when it is found begins to answer Jesus' critics. Read Luke 15:11-32. The third parable repeats the basic theme. But how is it different from the first two?

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

In verses 13-16, Jesus summarizes the younger son's experience away from home. In what ways are you sympathetic with the younger son? Why?

What steps do you perceive in the young man's 180-degree turnabout?

The drama grows as Jesus describes the father in verses 20-24. In the light of verse 2, what does he want his critics to see about this man?

In the interaction with his older son, what other dimensions of the father's character and motives appear (vv. 28-32)?

The rejoicing nature of God is still foreign if not downright offensive to some religious people (see vv. 2, 6-7, 9-10, 22-24, 32 and 14:16-17). Why?

What part of these three parables moves you to believe in the possibilities of new or fresh changes in your relationship to family members and with God?

Note the parallels between the prodigal's coming to the father and our coming to the Father through Christ (John_14:6):

The Prodigal

He was lost (v. 24)

He was ignorant (v. 17)

He was dead (v. 24)

Jesus Christ

"I am the way"

"I am the truth"

"I am the life"

One of the best ways to foster spiritual growth is to stick tight to God's Word and other Christians. At this point in your spiritual journey is there a specific action step you could take or discipline you could begin in order to take advantage of this truth?