

Forgiving others is not:

1. Forgiving others is not justifying their actions.
2. Forgiving others is not trusting the passage of time.
3. Forgiving others is not denying that you are hurt.
4. Forgiving others is not confronting them personally.

Steps in learning to forgive others.

Remember Isaiah 1:18, Matthew 18:32-35

Release Romans 12:17-19

Recognize Romans 8:28.

Reestablish Romans 12:18, Romans 12:21.

Repeat Matthew 6:14-15, Colossians 3:13

NEXT STEPS

Welcome to the spring quarter of Life Groups!

This week we kick off our spring Life Group quarter. Your first meeting will include a time to get acquainted, as well as a review of your goals and purposes of life groups. The homework has been shortened to allow ample time to accomplish each of these.

To prepare, take some time to focus on the questions below and be prepared to share your answers with the group. Have a great first meeting!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you had to compete in one of the following events (and fitness was not an issue) which one would it be and why?

- World Cup Final
- Tour de France
- Super Bowl
- Wimbledon
- World Series
- Drag Race Nationals
- Masters
- Daytona 500 (NASCAR)
- Coney Island 4th of July Hot Dog Eating Contest
- Final Four
- Olympics

2. Of all the cars you've owned or had use of, which one was your favorite and why?

3. 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

1. The Apostle Paul used strong words such as “enemies” and “alienated” in Colossians 1:21 to describe the spiritual condition of the Colossian church (and us) before they knew Christ. How do the following verses reinforce and further describe who we are before we come to know Christ and why we all need forgiveness?

Romans 1:18-25

Romans 8:5-8

Titus 3:3

3. When we remember our great need for forgiveness and God’s incredible provision, we become more open and willing to forgive others. Jesus addressed this issue in his response to a question Peter asked him. What insights and principles do you learn about forgiveness from Jesus’ straightforward answer and insightful parable in Matthew 18:21-35?

What are some signs that a person may not have forgiven someone?
What are signs they have forgiven someone?

Looking at this passage and your sermon notes, write down what you think it means to “forgive as the Lord has forgiven you.” (Colossians 3:13)

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE GROUPS

Life Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God’s Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here’s how it will happen.

SHARE

Each week we’ll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned “sharing questions.” But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal, as we feel more comfortable.

STUDY

Each week we’ll study a section from God’s Word that relates to the previous weekend’s message or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Faith in Christ in everyday life.

SUPPORT

Each week we’ll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

SERVE

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God’s Kingdom.