

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1 **How would you define forgiveness?** Write a definition below.



2 **Read Genesis 45:1-15 and Genesis 50:15-21**

Joseph models forgiveness in amazing fashion. From his story, what can you learn about forgiveness?

Joseph's brothers experienced forgiveness. Can you learn something about being forgiven through their experience?

3 **Read Matthew 6:7-15.** What does Jesus teach about forgiveness in His model prayer?

4 **Read Matthew 18:21-35.** Jesus taught Peter about forgiveness using a parable. What did Peter learn about forgiveness from this parable?

5 **Read Luke 23:32-38**

Did the people ask Jesus for forgiveness?

What type of attitude can you imitate in this story of forgiveness?

6 **Read Ephesians 1:7 and Ephesians 4:32**

What makes forgiveness possible?

If you keep close to your heart the fact that you have been forgiven by God (if indeed you are saved), how will you behave when people sin against you?

7 **In your life's journey, you have had to forgive and be forgiven.** Spend time thinking about your salvation testimony, thanking God for His forgiveness. Also, please take time to pray about your need to forgive others.

Is there anyone in your life that you have not forgiven?

Is there anyone who needs to forgive you?

8 **We all struggle to forgive or seek forgiveness.** Sometimes pastoral or professional counseling is necessary, and sometimes we need to self-counsel. Listed below are truths to meditate on, truths to use in counseling yourself.

Truth Statement: Forgiveness is a command of God. If I refuse to forgive, I endanger my relationship with God. Matthew 6:14-15 "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Truth Statement: Forgiveness is my first step towards sowing to the future and reaping a harvest of peace and freedom. Philippians 3:13b-14 "...But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Truth Statement: There is a link between forgiveness and trust. I can forgive others because I trust God. He is the judge: He will repay. He loves me and He wants to use this circumstance to produce something good and glorious. Romans 12:19 "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'" Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

9 **Someone once said that forgiveness is easiest to grant when the offender's apology includes the 5 R's – regret, responsibility, restitution, repentance, and a request for forgiveness.** What do you think of those 5 points? Are any missing? Which ones are the most important to you in an apology and why?

10 **Respond to the following quote from C.S. Lewis** "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." Does that remind you of any particular verses on forgiveness?

11 **How would you counsel someone who refuses to forgive?** Perhaps they are trapped in bitterness or filled with anger? What verses would you use to help them understand that it is both necessary and possible?