

## Discussion Questions

### “Forgiven Forgiver”

#### Ephesians 1:3-14

(Share about a time when undeserved grace & forgiveness were extended to you.)

- Where do you think life comes from? When you really think about it, how are you alive? Is it a gift or something that you earned? Does your life belong to you or someone else? If someone else, who does it belong to?
- How might you see your life—and live your life differently—if you believed these things didn’t belong to you but to God?
- When in life have you felt most offended? What was it about that incident that most offended you? Was it because you felt something that you thought belonged to you or you were entitled to you was violated?
- What’s your knee-jerk reaction when someone hurts or offends you?

In Matt. 5:38-41

*Jesus challenges our instincts of retaliation; He says, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”*

And yet, in other passages of Scripture, Jesus also talks about things that are unforgivable.

- Read Matthew 6:15 and 12:31. According to these scriptures, what is the unforgivable sin?

In this sermon, Peter talks about the unforgivable sin being unforgiveness and that we have all committed it.

- What do you think it means if a sin is unforgiven, if a debt is unforgiven? Is there any way for that unforgiven debt to be forgiven?

In this sermon Peter said:

If a sin is unforgiven, if a debt is unforgiven, . . . it means you have to pay!... If God won’t forgive you the life of His Son, it means you have to pay the life of His Son! BUT from the foundation of the world, He forgave the life of His Son and all things with Him. Everything is forgiven you! It’s His Spirit that testifies to forgiveness. If I blaspheme that Spirit, I refuse forgiveness and don’t forgive. So, you can’t wish people to Hell and go to Heaven... You’ll remain in outer darkness UNTIL you surrender to the Light... Dead until you surrender to life. And Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life... We know that one day “every knee will bow and every tongue give praise, for Jesus is Lord to the glory of God” —the glory of God’s grace. But the process of bending our knees and surrendering our hearts so that His life freely flows through us and out of us in forgiveness is hard. —P.H.

- Can you see God’s process of setting you free from unforgiveness, like mentioned above, working in your own life? If so, how?

Forgiveness can be hard if we think whatever has been “taken” from us is ours. But all life is a gift. Jesus is the Life and the life is in the blood. When we realize that all life belongs to God, and God willingly shares His life with all, it’s easier to forgive.

- Can you think of any areas where you think you own your life—the life that might be making it difficult for you to forgive others?
- Confess those areas to God and if you are willing, offer them back to Him & thank Him that all life is truly from Him and ultimately His.
- Is there a person or people in your life right now that it just feels too painful to forgive—someone who you feel has stolen a part of your life from you that you might never get back? Talk to God about that person. Tell Him about the pain and ask Him to help you forgive as He forgives, to bleed as He bleeds.
- If you can say, “In the name of Jesus and under the authority of His blood, I forgive.” In your heart offer up that person or people to the Lord. It kind of hurts at first. But hang in there. It’s just the edge of life. Forgiven, you can forgive.

*\*These questions were created by Kimberly Wevnen*