



June 15, 2025

Soul Care: Forgiveness

Scripture: Ephesians 4:31-32; Matt 18:15-35

Big Idea: The currency of the kingdom of heaven is forgiveness. When we don't forgive, without measure, we choke out the kingdom

The Challenge: The consequences of sin are vast, and the collateral damage is the destruction of relationships. This is legitimate pain that others have caused, and we are justified in struggling with it. Yet, holding on to this pain with resentment, bitterness, and anger only paralyzes our soul. We are instructed, through His help, to mirror the character of God, who lavishly forgives us. Forgiveness is a matter of daily obedience rather than faith. And yet, it is in this forgiveness of others that we are made whole and complete.

Pastoral Prayer for this Message: "Lord, you have shown us such mercy and grace. You have shown us forgiveness beyond measure, and you have been faithful. Yet, we often forget, we often glaze over it. Reveal to us your love for us, and begin to reveal the areas of our lives that need forgiveness as it relates to the hurt we carry."

Life Group Objectives:

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week's message and passage, or dig into the series you are going through as a group. We learn and grow together as a church when we all track together on the sermon series.
2. We desire that the Bible play a key role in your time together. Please have people open their Bibles, seek clarity, ask questions, share insights, and allow the Bible to guide them.
3. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?

Questions for Discussion:

Forgiveness Starts with Pain

Exod 3:7 - Each of us has been hurt. Wrong has been done to us, and that pain is very real. It is the result of sin, which "vandalizes shalom." We can all look back on our lives, from the moment we were born to the interactions we had today; we have inevitably been dealt with unjustly and wrongly. Similarly, we have also been the perpetrators of hurt to others. This demands an honest reflection on our lives.

Question:

- 1) What has been some of the deep sources of pain in your life?
- 2) What are the areas of your life that you are still struggling with
- 3) Reading Exod 3:7, what does this tell us about God's view of our pain?

God has Forgiven Us

Eph 4:32 – Though we have wronged God, He has forgiven us. He has shown mercy to us born out of love. As Bruner said, forgiveness is almost a single-word summary of both the Christian Gospel and Christian ethics, of God's gift to us and our responsibility to others.

Questions:

- 1) What stood out in this week's sermon as it relates to God's forgiveness of us?
- 2) How have you experienced God's love and mercy in your life?
- 3) What scriptures stand out and make his love clear in your life?
- 4) Was it difficult to receive?
- 5) What have you noticed about your own view on life when you experience His love?

Forgiveness as Obedience

We are never more like Christ than when we forgive. In the words of Brad Hambrick, at its most basic level, forgiveness is cancelling a debt which doesn't necessarily mean living as if the debt never happened (rewriting history), giving another loan (trust), or starting a new business together (reconciliation). Rather, it is a journey of healing where we can allow ourselves to be made vulnerable again. The first step in that journey is to choose to forgive.

Questions

- 1) Think of a time when you needed to forgive. How
- 2) Why is it hard to forgive someone who has hurt you?
- 3) Who do you need to reach out to help you start that journey?
- 4) Which aspect of forgiveness is most difficult for you? IS that because the implications are confusing, emotionally difficult, or relationally complicated?
- 5) What pain or wound in your life needs to start that journey of forgiveness?
- 6) Where do you need to ask for forgiveness?

"Lord, these conversations have brought up a lot of hurt in our own lives. Hurt that is sometimes overwhelming. But you are kind and gentle. So, Lord, continue to reveal areas in our own lives that need forgiveness from others or for others. Help us to take the courageous step that you have demonstrated to us, and Lord, continue to shape us into more like you, Jesus."