



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pray This Way – The Most Painful Verse in the Lord's Prayer

Week of 8.3.20

Scripture references:

Matthew 6:12

Matthew 18:21-35

Big Idea: Forgiven people forgive.

Forgiveness is love's weapon to overcome evil. Forgiving does not deny the seriousness of the sin done to us, but it does refuse to take vengeance for the offense. When we have been forgiven by God through Christ and are being sanctified by the Holy Spirit, it will be evident by the way we forgive others.

- Proverbs 19:11 (ESV) says, "Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense." What do you think this means? How does developing a habit of forgiveness affect your relationships with others?
- In the sermon, Randy explained that forgiveness is different from reconciliation. Sometimes reconciliation is impossible because the offender has died, doesn't care, or denies the offense. Forgiveness only requires one party, but full reconciliation requires both the offender and the offended to acknowledge the true weight of the sin and to create a solution for rebuilding the damaged relationship. Share about a time when you were able to forgive someone. Were you also reconciled? If so, what did it require?

- Although it may release us from a heavy burden, forgiving people is often difficult. Sometimes we feel as though a sin is so great that it can't be forgiven. Sometimes we underplay our own sins, making the sins of others feel even more egregious by comparison. Sometimes we acknowledge our need to forgive from the heart but lack the will. What are some of the obstacles that most often make it hard for you to forgive people? Share with the group a specific situation when you found forgiveness difficult.