

Dig Deeper @Home – “Walking the Broken Road of Forgiveness”

Complement to lesson on 5/11/2025 – “Forgiving Ourselves”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Finish the sentence: God’s forgiveness is like _____
2. You get given \$1 million but have to spend it in 10 minutes. What are you buying?

MEMORIZE – Psalm 32: 1-5

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.” And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

READ – Ephesians 4: 17-32

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What in these verses is interesting? What is confusing?
 - d. What are the verses revealing about God? What are the verses saying about people?
 - e. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. What does God’s forgiveness have to do with Ephesians 4: 17-32?
3. According to these verses, we are not to live as the Gentiles do.
 - a. What does Paul mean by “live as the Gentiles”?
 - b. What does Paul say is the ultimate source of gentiles living this way?
 - c. In what ways do you have a hardened heart? What can you do this week to soften it?
 - d. According to these verses, how do you know when the softening has taken place?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Use Words to Build

“You must let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but only what is beneficial for the building up of the one in need, that it may give grace to those who hear” (Ephesians 4:29)

This week, use your words to build. No unwholesome talk. Not to yourself. Not to your enemy. Not to the person who wronged you. Not to the opponent or competition. This week, use your words to build. Build yourself up. Build up your family. Build up your enemies. Build up your neighbors. Build up those who drive you crazy and those who you adore. Build up those you’ve forgiven and those you’re struggling to forgive. Use your words to build, that it may give grace to those who hear.

And when you fail and fall short, seek the Holy Spirit for help. And when you succeed and others ask about it, use the opportunity to talk about Jesus and give the glory to the Lord.

SING (or listen to)

O Praise the Name - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqBpifDpNKc>

Holy Forever - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkHgxCemCRk>

Echo Holy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjDkHUj7o0A>

Come, All Christians, Be Committed - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4czdSVZepk>

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us, for this week.

Sending prayer based on the message:

Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, thank you for your extravagant love and unfathomable forgiveness. So great is your love and forgiveness, that it seems foolish to us. Help me to receive this love and forgiveness and to love and forgive ALL others to the point where it too looks foolish.