

Community and Christian Fellowship
FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER – Study Guide

The verses used in the sermon are

Romans 3:23; Mark 1:15; Luke 13:1-6; Isaiah 44:22-23; Matthew 9:1-6;
Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7; Acts 10:43; Romans 4:7; 1 John 1:8-9;
Matthew 6:12-15; Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13.

1. In your group you might like to read and reflect on some of these verses and talk about what their application to our lives today might be.
2. It may be worth spending much of your time talking about your own experience of being forgiven or not forgiven by others and of being able to forgive or not forgive those who have 'offended against you'. Perhaps a time of prayer at this point would be helpful.
3. We can be absolutely confident that because Jesus died for us, God wants to, can and will forgive us and completely blot out the consequences of our sin. All we have to do is acknowledge that we are sinners, repent and believe the good news! You may like to discuss how and when you experienced that realisation that you really are a forgiven person, whose sins have been blotted out. Maybe someone hasn't yet experienced that or finds it difficult to really accept that God accepts them as they are now, although of course he wants us to be constantly being transformed into the image of Christ.
4. How can we resolve the problem of both our responsibility to forgive each other and our responsibility to challenge each other to amend our behaviour when that is clearly necessary? Can you think of occasions when you have found that difficult?!
5. Maybe it will be helpful to spend time praying for those you find it difficult to forgive, and praying for yourselves that you might find grace to forgive, without pretending that what they did was not in itself what we might call 'unforgiveable'.
6. Are there times when the person who we struggle to forgive might be ourselves and how can we deal with that?