



Forgiven and Forgiving

Discussion Guide | February 2, 2020

Matthew 6:12

Questions for Study and Discussion

** Before you begin, please read Matthew 6:5-13 (these questions will focus on Matthew 6:12)

1. Imagine you were asked to explain forgiveness to someone who is new to the Christian faith. What would you include? (Think of definitions, examples, images, etc.)
2. "You won't fully appreciate the beauty of forgiveness until you deeply understand the seriousness of sin." Do you agree or disagree with this? Why?
3. In Matthew 6:12, most English translations say "forgive us our debts..." (for e.g., NIV, ESV, CSB). How does the image of "debt" help us understand both our sin / need for forgiveness (see also Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8), and the forgiveness God offers in Jesus (see 1 John 1:9)?
4. In Matthew 6:12, Jesus brings up both our need to RECEIVE forgiveness, and the importance of EXTENDING forgiveness to others. The next few questions focus on receiving forgiveness:
 - What does it mean to receive God's forgiveness?
 - How can we be assured of God's forgiveness? (See also Romans 4:7-8; Romans 8:1; 1 John 1:9)
 - How is Jesus' work on the cross crucial for the forgiveness we're offered?
5. Now, focus on extending forgiveness:
 - Why is extending forgiveness to others so important?
 - Let's get practical: What does it look like to extend forgiveness to others? What doesn't extending forgiveness mean? Is there anyone in your life you're refusing to forgive?
6. Which is easier for you to do - to receive God's forgiveness (and believe He can forgive you) or to extend forgiveness to others? Why?
7. Read Matthew 18:21-35. How does this parable reinforce what you've learned about forgiveness? What else does it add to how you can apply this topic of forgiveness?
8. What action steps do you need to take today, regarding what you've learned about receiving and / or extending forgiveness?
9. What have you learned from Matthew 6:12 that can make a practical difference in your prayer life?
10. End your group time in prayer - looking to God for forgiveness and showing thanks that "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1).