



Lenten Small Group Questions

Week #1 (February 21, 2021) - "Forgiveness" Luke 23:32-38

Begin by establishing some ground rules for your group. Even if your group has been together for a while, it is always a good idea to check in and make sure you all share a common set of values. Here are four things you might consider as part of that discussion.

PRAYER: Starting your time together in prayer and finishing your time together in prayer for one another is a powerful way to bookend a gathering of your group.

CONFIDENTIALITY: What is said in the group stays in the group.

LISTEN: Value one another during the discussions by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond or fixing someone's problem.

SHARING: Be sensitive about the amount of time you share. Try and hear somewhat equally from all members of the group.

Small Group Questions

1. As we enter the season of Lent, Christians typically "give something up." The last year with the pandemic, everyone has already given up a lot. Talk about what you have missed this last year and how this Lent might be different than Lent seasons you have experienced before.
2. What are you looking for out of your small group experience? What are you looking forward to most in the next 6 weeks together?
3. Do you feel you need God's forgiveness? If so, in what way(s) or in what area(s) of your life? If not, can you explore that deeper?

4. Have you ever had to forgive someone who did something to wrong you? Was it difficult to do? How did you feel after you did it?

5. Have you been forgiven by someone? How did that feel? Did you deserve to be forgiven? Was it easier to be the one being forgiven or the one doing the forgiving?

6. In Matthew Chapter 6, there are 2 statements made about forgiveness. Verse 12 states, "And **forgive** us our debts, as we also have **forgiven** our debtors" and verse 15 "But if you do not **forgive** others their sins, your Father will not **forgive** your sins." It seems as though Jesus is clearly saying that as much as you forgive others, you will be forgiven. Is that what he is saying here? If so, what does that mean for you in your life of faith? If that's not what he is saying, what is he trying to communicate to us?

7. What "enemies" do you need to pray for or have you prayed for? How is that for you? Has it changed your heart for others? How?

For additional study

Matthew 18:21-35 The Parable of the unforgiving servant.

John 21:15-19 Jesus forgives Peter