



THE FORGIVENESS PROJECT: Awaken to God's Forgiveness

Pastor Derek Sanford

April 4, 2021

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement:

Easter has come and gone, and we live with a renewed awareness of Jesus's sacrifice and how it changed the course of history. We are free from the bondage of sin! How did you experience Easter differently in 2021?

Scripture:

Read [Hebrews 6:19-20](#)

1. What words or phrases in this passage stick out to you? Why?
2. How does this scripture re-shape your thoughts about your own shame or sin that keeps you from fully living in Jesus's forgiveness?
3. How does this passage encourage us to be restored and live our life's purpose?

Prayer:

Read [Psalm 40:1-3](#), and offer the words as prayer over the group. Use the word "us" where the author in this passage says "me" as a way to speak this verse over everyone.

Next Steps:

Consider which of the three ways to Awaken to God's Forgiveness from Pastor Derek's sermon you need to work on this week.

1. In your failure, run TOWARD Jesus
2. Allow Jesus to help you FACE your SINS
3. Be restored and live out your life's purpose



THE Forgiveness Project: Forgiving Others

Pastor Derek Sanford

April 11, 2021

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement:

Do you have a positive story of how you forgave someone, or were forgiven by someone? Please share.

Scripture:

Read: [Matthew 18:21-35](#) and [Ephesians 4: 31-32](#)

1. Put the words of Jesus into your own, what is He saying?
2. How should we view the debts/sins of others toward us in comparison to the debt/sins we owed God? Have you found this easy or hard? Why?
3. What does unwillingness to forgive tell us about our understanding of our own forgiveness by God? and/or What does our refusing to forgive reveal about our view of ourselves versus our view of others?
4. How does the concept of forgiving "debts" help us to understand how to properly forgive?
5. How can you know if you have really forgiven someone?

Prayer:

Are there issues of forgiveness that you are working on? How can we pray? Be as fuzzy or specific as you need to be.

Next Steps:

Will you commit to praying daily for a person that you have a broken relationship with? (Pray for them for one week and note if your feelings for them change in any way.)



THE FORGIVENESS PROJECT: Forgiving Yourself

Pastor Derek Sanford

April 18, 2021

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement:

Growing up, what was a nickname you were given that was based one of your traits/characteristics?

Scripture:

Read: [Ephesians 1:3-8](#) (Try also reading a different translation like the [NLT](#))

1. Why can it feel so hard to forgive ourselves sometimes?
2. Sometimes we allow ourselves to be labeled by our sins (e.g., I'm a failure. I'm damaged goods). When we are welcomed into God's family, he gives us a new name and identity. What is an old label you need to shed, and what is a new name you can claim for yourself as a child of God?
3. Sometimes we hold onto shame because we see the way our sin has impacted the people around us. Re-read verse 7. What does it look like to believe that God can and will redeem not only us, but the brokenness our sin may have caused in the lives of those around us?

Prayer:

Pray that God allows you to walk in freedom, trusting in His might and not your own.

Pray for those who may have been negatively affected by your sin, that God would work to use the brokenness for His glory.

Pray that God would renew your mind, enabling you to live into the new identity to which he has welcomed you.

Next Steps:

As a reminder, write your "new name" as a child of God somewhere you will frequently see it.



THE FORGIVENESS PROJECT: Forgiving Enemies

Pastor Derek Sanford

April 25, 2021

Life Group Discussion

Encouragement:

[1 John 1: 9](#) We see that if we confess God will forgive us our sins. How does it feel to know God forgives you? How should we react to others if God forgives us?

Scripture:

Read [Luke 23: 33-38](#)

1. Jesus was in severe physical distress and the religious leadership were mocking him. Everyone was mocking him. Yet Jesus asked God to “forgive them”. Is there someone in your life that you just can’t forgive?
2. How does holding on to a grudge or unforgiveness affect the person holding the grudge?
3. Some say forgiveness is like approving or excusing what was done

Read [John 8:11](#)

4. How did Jesus react to the woman caught in sin? Did he justify her actions when forgiving her?

Read [Matthew 5:43-47](#)

5. How are we suppose to treat our enemies according to this passage? Is this type of behavior something we can do on our own power?
6. What practical steps can we take to move toward “loving” our enemies?

Prayer:

Lead a prayer that focuses on thanking God for our forgiveness and asking God to lead you to forgiving others who have harmed you. Ask God to help you to forgive and to lift your enemies up in prayer. Pray that God leads you to how you can practically bless your enemies.

Next Steps:

This week make a list of who you see as enemies both personal and in the world. Ask God to give you the power to pray for them. As we pray for others God often changes our perspective. Also look inside and see who you may not be forgiving. Ask God to help you to let the hurt go to him and to forgive.