

Talk Seven
FORGIVENESS OF SINS
Mrs Alison Whalley

Leaders: choose some, but not all of the following questions. Email me with any questions. Mark.

Week 7 – the forgiveness of sins

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, **the forgiveness of sins**, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

1. Is there anything that stood out for you from the message? Anything new to you?
2. Putting aside where Alison heads, what would you say is the biggest problem in the world today?
3. Sin is unfashionable word and much misunderstood. How did Alison explain what sin is? (See around the 8-minute mark.)
4. "You're not the boss of me" is how Alison explained the attitude of those who shut God out. How do you react to Alison's explanation of sin? (Recall her account of the Alpha course participant.)
5. How do people often betray sin – in a way that underestimates its significance?
6. Why is God so serious when it comes to sin? Why can't he just overlook it?
7. What was Alison's good news for those who think they are too far gone (too sinful) for God?
8. Alison said, "If you ever think SIN doesn't matter or that YOU don't matter, head to the cross and stay there". Explore and discuss how reflecting on the cross of our Lord Jesus, addresses the two lies about sin.
9. Read Mark 2:1-12. Jesus meets a paralysed man and the first thing he says to him is 'your sins are forgiven'. Did that strike you as odd? What are we to learn from this?
10. What was the significance of the animals required for sacrifice? And where does Jesus' death fit?
11. What was Jesus claiming by declaring this man's sins forgiven?
12. How do you feel about the fact that forgiveness of sins means our liberation from sin's power and penalty? Complete liberation!
13. What did Alison say about ongoing (daily) forgiveness for the believer?
14. And what does the fact that we are forgiven, mean for *our* forgiveness of others? (Recall or replay what Alison said about this – from 24:15).

Alison closed: "Believing this truth will change how we live. Are we walking free, unburdened, delighting in our relationship with our God that's been made available through Jesus? Yes! Because I believe in the forgiveness of sins!"

What will you personally take from this study?