

# Series: Hallowed be your name

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us**

## Small group questions

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

1. Was there anything new for you from the message? Any questions?
2. Mark reminded us at the beginning of the message, that in the Lord's Prayer we come as a trusting child approaching a \_\_\_\_\_; we come in an attitude of worship asking God to cause his name to be \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere; we come as loyal citizens to a King, asking him to enlarge his \_\_\_\_\_; we come in surrender asking him to cause his \_\_\_\_\_ to be done and as dependents, praying each day for our \_\_\_\_\_.  
What has stood out for you or been most helpful for you in our Lord's Prayer series so far?

3. Do you find it hard to forgive others? When do you or when have you found it *most* hard?

### **The joy of forgiveness**

4. Forgiveness follows repentance. See Luke 15:1-10 and see the joy even in heaven when a sinner repents and is thereby, forgiven. Do we get that excited when someone repents and believes?
5. Read Mark 2:1-12. What was surprising about the first words that came from Jesus to the paralysed man? What was Jesus demonstrating by dealing with this issue first? I don't think we often see forgiveness as the most pressing need of those around us – otherwise we'd be keener to be about the work of SHARING JESUS for LIFE. How can we help each other see forgiveness as the most significant issue for those around us?
6. Although God cannot simply overlook sin, he has provided an answer. Read 1 John 2:1-2 and explore the concept Mark was explaining of 'propitiation' or 'atoning sacrifice'. This is what we remember in the Holy Communion – that by his death on the cross and rising to new life, Jesus offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people! We remember that he poured out his blood, 'for the forgiveness of sins'! Our communion services need to be way more joyful than I think we often see! Discuss how we might more readily rediscover and celebrate the joy of forgiveness. Are you joyful about and thankful for YOUR forgiveness today??

### **The challenge of forgiveness**

7. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What do you make of the guy who after having been forgiven a massive-impossible-to-ever-pay-back debt, refused to forgive a \$5 debt? What was this guy's problem? What is Jesus teaching here?
8. Now read the verses that follow the Lord's prayer in Matthew 6:14-15. Perhaps these verses make more sense in the light of the parable? Perhaps someone who cannot forgive, has not actually ever known God's forgiveness, or comprehended exactly the nature of our debt and the length our Father went to do deal with it? Discuss.
9. Is it possible to forgive someone if they've never said 'sorry' – if they've never repented? Refer sermon and discuss.

*Of course some among us have known terrible abuse. Forgiveness is never easy in such a situation. Mark suggested in his sermon, that women would be welcome to contact Joy Harris, our minister in Canowindra, should they wish to talk about this, or me (Mark) for men. If you have been abused by a clergy person or church worker and have never dealt with such trauma, I encouraged people in the message to contact our help line on **1800 070 511**.*

*What have you learnt from this sermon and discussion, which will impact your life? Share with each other.*