

GAZING ON THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Talk 5 – Forgiving

Small group questions

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact revkev182@gmail.com

1. What stood out to you the most in the sermon about God being forgiving? Was there anything you didn't understand?

God forgives (*nasa*, lit. lifts, carries, or takes away) wickedness (*avon*, a general word for bad human behaviour), rebellion (*pasha*, legal word concerning transgression of law), and sin (*hattaah*, more familiar concept of sin 'missing the mark'). Forgiveness is hard when you are the one doing the forgiving, and seemingly easy when you are the one receiving. The human experience is to be on both ends of the process at one point or another. Yet God never needs forgiveness, and at the heart of the gospel offers forgiveness to all.

Read Exodus 34:6-7 and Matthew 18:21-35

2. Have you ever had to forgive or be forgiven something significant? How did it feel? What was the process like? Are you brave to share a time when you found it challenging to forgive someone?
3. Why do you think forgiving others is described as being difficult, as mentioned in the sermon?
4. Discuss the concept of forgiving someone who repeatedly hurts or wrongs you. How do you balance forgiveness with protecting yourself from harm?
5. How does the extravagant forgiveness of God, as described in the sermon, shape your understanding of God's character? In what ways does God's forgiveness differ from human forgiveness?
6. From the Matthew 18 parable - What emotions or thoughts arise in you as you consider the actions of the forgiven servant in the parable?
7. How does the idea that forgiving others is an overflow of having experienced God's forgiveness resonate with you?
8. In what practical ways can we demonstrate forgiveness to others in our daily lives, considering it as an overflow of having experienced God's forgiveness?
9. Reflect on the consequences of harbouring unforgiveness, both on a personal level and in relationships.
10. How does unforgiveness impact one's relationship with God?
11. Discuss the three "A"s mentioned – admit, ask, accept. Was this something you found helpful? Why do we sometimes struggle and each one of these?

Thank you, Father, for revealing the depths of your forgiveness, a forgiveness that is extravagant, liberating, and offered freely through the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant us the strength to forgive others as we have been forgiven by you. Help us to embody the radical forgiveness that resists thoughts of revenge, seeks peace, and wishes well for those who have wronged us. Teach us to extend forgiveness generously, knowing that your forgiveness knows no bounds. We pray for those who may be struggling with forgiveness, that your grace would surround them and lead

them to experience the freedom that comes with letting go. May our lives be reflections of your love and mercy, and may we walk in the freedom that forgiveness brings. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.