

Topic 5: What We Believe About Forgiveness

Diving into Scripture:
Luke 15:11-32 & 1 John 3:1
Matthew 18:21-35 & Ephesians 4:32
Luke 23:33-34, 46 & Romans 8:38-39

A. Read what the Apostle’s Creed Says about the forgiveness.

“I believe in...the forgiveness of sins.”

B. Discussion

1. Specifically looking at the Luke 23 passage we learn that nothing we do or say or think can separate us from the love of God. When we pray and admit our need for his forgiveness, we are greeted with outstretched arms. Because of Jesus' example, we know how to respond to others. We love (and forgive) because he first loved (and forgave) us.
2. Discuss together a time when you felt betrayed by someone. How did you respond? With forgiveness? Or with a desire to “get even?”
3. Share a time when you ignored something and it ate away at you. Talk about how unforgiveness affected you.
4. Our relationship with God has often been revealed as that of a parent figure. Talk about some of the expectations and rules your parent(s) have set in your house.
 1. What happens when you break those rules and don’t meet those expectations?
5. Jesus is the reason we can be forgiven and he is the reason we can forgive others. When we talk about brokenness, we are talking about the ways we fall short of God’s expectations of us.
 1. What do you think God expects from us? Individually, and as a community.
 2. What does it look like when we fall short of God’s expectations? Again, individually, and as a community/world/humanity.
 3. Do you think God expects us to make mistakes?

C. Write your ideas about “what I believe about forgiveness of sins.”
