

Home Group Discussion Guide for Spiritual Disciplines: Forgiveness (Break the Cycle)

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The following questions are designed to help groups explore the message above by challenging participants to consider how God is wanting them to apply it to their lives.

*The questions are a **guide** to help lead discussion.*

Please don't feel that all questions need to be asked, instead respond to the needs of your group.

If you have new people in your group, take the opportunity to introduce each other and clarify any expectations that are present in your group (such as confidentiality).

GETTING STARTED

1. What are some of the images / metaphors for forgiveness that you have heard before? Do you like that metaphor?
2. What was the main challenge or idea that stood out to you from the message on Sunday?

REFLECTING ON THE MESSAGE

Key Scriptures: *James 4:1-3; Matthew 18:21-22; Matthew 6:9-13*

1. What does it mean that *the choice to **not** forgive is the choice of revenge*?
 - a. Many of us wouldn't consider ourselves to be angry or seeking revenge. How does this appear in our lives?
2. What is Jesus trying to help us understand about forgiveness in Matthew 18:21-22?
 - a. What has been your experiences of this idea?
3. The world's understanding of forgiveness is confused, what are some of the things that forgiveness is **not**?
4. How does Jesus' addition of *...as we also have forgiven our debtors...* (Matthew 6:9-13) into a common prayer of the time affect our understanding of forgiveness?

RESPONDING TO THE MESSAGE

1. Gavin identified 5 steps (*Check Your Heart, Get Specific About The Hurt, Name The Person, Forgive: Entrust Justice To God, Plan To Forgive Them Again*) to forgiveness. Which of these do you struggle with the most?
2. What would it look like to engage with that part of the forgiveness process for you?

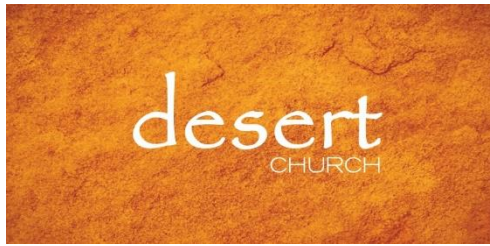
OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

Please See Next Page.



OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

Over the Month of August we are celebrating what God is doing in our Church, and highlighting our 4 church values. This week's value is:



We Partner To Strengthen Healthy DESERT Christian Networks.

- Pray for God's blessing on the partnerships and connections that we have with Christian believers all over the Northern Territory, including;
 - Yuendumu Baptist Church
 - Ali Curung Baptist Church
 - Katherine Baptist Church
 - Kalkaringi Baptist Church
 - Lajamanu Baptist Church
 - Willowra Baptist Church
- God, with so many people separated from their family and community here in Alice Springs, show me **who** I can reach out to strengthen our networks