



WEEK 9: AN ABSURD GIFT

ICE BREAKER

WORSHIP

PRAYER

SERMON REWIND

The sermon emphasizes that forgiveness is often not seen as a miraculous and essential act within our spiritual lives. When it comes to the Kingdom of God, forgiveness is not an option, it is a lifestyle we continuously live into that sprouts from our relationship with God. This gift of forgiveness not only heals our connections with God and others, but also breaks cycles of bitterness and retaliation. Ultimately, true maturity in the Kingdom is loving others well, which depends on how well we give and receive forgiveness.

KEY VERSES

Look up theses additional verses:

Matthew 18:21-35 (NLT)

Colossians 3:12-15 (NLT)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Difficulty of Forgiveness

The sermon discusses how forgiveness is essential and transformative but doesn't always feel like a miraculous or spiritual act.

- a. Why do you think forgiveness is often seen as a difficult or unappealing act for many people?
- b. Can you think of a time when forgiving someone was hard for you? What made it difficult, and how did you feel afterward?

2

Kingdom Maturity

The sermon highlights that the measure of our maturity in the Kingdom is based on how well we love others, which includes offering forgiveness.

- a. According to **Matthew 18:21-35**, what does Jesus teach about the importance of forgiving others?
- b. How does your understanding of this passage influence the way you view forgiveness in your own relationships?

3

Healthy Relationships

The sermon mentions that forgiveness can be a beginning to healed relationships and break cycles of retaliation and bitterness.

- a. In what ways can forgiveness be a 'miraculous salve' for our relationships?
- b. Reflect on a recent conflict in your life. How might offering or seeking forgiveness change the outcome?

4

Practicing Forgiveness

Matthew 18:32-35 emphasizes that those who have received forgiveness should offer it too, which suggests a need for practice in our lives.

- a. What are some practical steps you think we can take to better give and receive forgiveness?
- b. What might be holding you back from offering forgiveness to someone right now, and how can you address that?

Reminder: Jesus' death on the cross was the Father's way of pursuing you and I by repairing relationship with us through His death. His death and resurrection are a necessary remembrance.

DIVE DEEPER

Personal Reflection

Forgiveness is not an easy task, but it is necessary to repair relationships. An example is Jesus' death on the cross.

- Who do you need to forgive? If you withheld forgiveness to them, why?
- How might Jesus' death on the cross encourage us to pursue forgiveness with others?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Living Reconciled: This week, pray and write down:

- Who does Jesus want me to forgive?
- How can I live into forgiveness for those it is difficult to forgive?

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you choose a forgiving heart, releasing bitterness to live in peace.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Closing Scripture:

Romans 12:21(NIV): *"Do not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good."*

Let the group be reminded of this as you close together in prayer.

NOTES

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