The Forgiveness of God- Session 5

START

Welcome to group session 5 of Pray like This. Ask participants to discuss what they learned in their personal study by answering the following questions.

What’s one truth that stood out to you as you completed the personal study this week?

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Based on your study, why should we ask God for our daily bread?

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The next lines of Jesus’ Model Prayer deal with forgiveness:

Forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

MATTHEW 6:12

Jesus said we should ask God to forgive us as we have forgiven our debtors. Clearly, there’s a link between our forgiveness of others and God’s forgiveness of us. What’s that link? And why should we pray for forgiveness if Christ has already forgiven us? This week’s video session will help us discover insights into these questions.

Read together the text of Jesus’ Model Prayer, found in Matthew 6:9-13. Then watch video session 5.

WATCH

As we pray, it’s good to remind ourselves that what we truly deserve is hell, but Jesus forgave us.

The grace you extend is tied to the grace you receive.

When I think about all that Christ did for me on the cross by taking my sins, bearing my shame, my guilt, in His body on that tree, how can I not forgive someone who’s done something against me?

For us to ever come into the presence of a perfectly holy God and feel like we don’t need forgiveness would be the greatest sense of arrogance.

Unforgiveness of others closes our ability to receive God’s forgiveness.

Forgiveness is less about reciprocity. It’s more about God’s kindness to me.

One of the greatest sins in the church may be a lack of forgiveness, which stems from pride, and it stems from actually not preaching the gospel to ourselves.

It is God who releases us from the power of our past, the power of our sins.

When we take those wounds and those anxieties and those aches and need of forgiveness or need of giving forgiveness, it then brings us to a place of humility because all we can rest upon is grace.

No matter what somebody may have done to you, they have not done to you what your sin did to Jesus.

It’s not that we forgive in order to gain God’s forgiveness; it’s that we forgive because we’ve been forgiven.

Jesus does not ask us to do anything that He’s not. For me to truly identify with who He is—that He’s a forgiving God—is for me to be able to step out in forgiving others.

When I freely and readily give you forgiveness, I am acknowledging, “How could I hold something against you that Jesus Christ, the King of the universe, has already let go?”

Jesus says you need to pray that way because what happens in your prayer life is manifested in your Christian life.

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DISCUSS

What’s one insight in the video that challenged you?

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If God has already forgiven us in Christ, why must we continue to ask for forgiveness?

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What are we acknowledging to be true about God’s character when we humbly ask for forgiveness?

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When we ask for forgiveness of our sins, we’re expressing faith in God’s mercy. Our ongoing petition for forgiveness is an opportunity for God, again and again, to remind us of the good news of the gospel. It’s also a chance for us, again and again, to humble ourselves before Him and declare that we need His mercy.

Why did Jesus link our forgiveness of others with God’s forgiveness of us?

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What happens when we mentally disconnect that link?

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Can you think of any other examples of Scripture in which these two avenues of forgiveness are linked together?

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Can you share the names of any people you’re struggling to forgive?

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Our willingness to forgive others reflects our understanding of God’s forgiveness of us. If we have trouble extending forgiveness to another person, it might very well be because we aren’t aware of the depth of our sin and the greatness of God’s forgiveness of us.

PRAY

Lead the group in prayer. Ask members to silently ask for forgiveness. Encourage them to ask forgiveness for specific sins, not to pray a general prayer for forgiveness. Then pray for any members who confessed that they’re struggling with forgiveness. [Gaines, Steve & Kelley, Michael (2017). Pray Like This - Bible Study eBook (p. 66). LifeWay Christian Resources. Retrieved from https://app.wordsearchbible.com.]