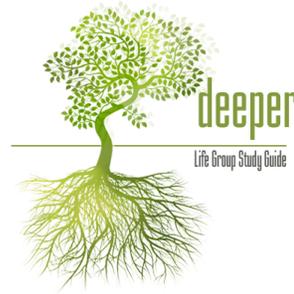


## Deeper

### The Kingdom: Full of Forgiveness Part 2



#### Welcome (You to Me, Me to You)

1. Share a time recently when you've had to ask someone for forgiveness. How did it go?

#### Worship (Us to God)

Psalm 40 is a beautiful psalm of gratitude for the many and manifold blessings we have because of God's mercy toward us. Read it out loud and then spend some time thanking God in simple prayers for the forgiveness and mercy He has extended to you.

#### Word (God to Us)

1. Read Matthew 18:21 – 35 aloud. Would one person from the group paraphrase this for us or tell it again in your own words?

2. At the end of this passage Jesus demands that we forgive our offenders from the *heart*. What is the significance of this?

3. What is something (big or small) that God has forgiven you of through Christ?

Reality Check: Being honest with yourself and this group, have you been able to fully receive God's forgiveness to you through Christ? Have you been able to forgive yourself for mistakes, sins, and foolishness of the past?

4. How does the lavish forgiveness of God toward us empower and release us to forgive the mistakes, sins, and follies of others?

5. Not everything that hurts us is a "big" sin. Sometimes someone can cause us pain simply by doing the same annoying or inconsiderate thing over and over again. Is there someone you need to forgive for the "little" things that are currently bugging you or getting under your skin?

6. In this week's message we were reminded that Kingdom living (or doing things God's way) turn our normal responses or inclinations on their heads. So in kingdom living:

\*We place others above self.

\*Leadership isn't about me, but me helping you reach your potential.

\*In the kingdom we aren't competing with one another, but helping one another win.

\*Kingdom living is about relationship over individualism.

\*Kingdom living isn't about getting even, but forgiving.

How would this kind of thinking and living impact or change your relationships with friends, family, in your marriage, with your children, and at work?

7. It is said that forgiving someone else actually sets the forgiver *free*. Is there someone you currently feel bound to in a matter of hurt and forgiveness?

*The best is yet to come for those who are living within the Kingdom by the blood of Christ.*

#### Response (Us to the World)

The goal of God sending Christ for us was reconciliation or restoration of relationship. When we engage others in conflict (conflict is not a bad thing if done well) the goal should always be restoration and reconciliation. Is there someone you need to confront for the purpose of healing, restoration, and forgiveness? If so, please share with the group so we can stand with you in prayer.

Recommended Reading on the Topic of Forgiveness:

(If you are currently struggling with forgiveness in some way, consider going through these books with a friend or mentor.)

\**Freedom in Christ* by Neil T. Anderson

\**Nonviolent Communication* by Marshall B. Rosenberg