

Small Group Guide



Understanding God's Character and Forgiveness

Opening Question: How does your perception of someone's character influence how you interpret their actions, especially when you don't have all the information?

Key Takeaways:

1. Our understanding of God's character is crucial in how we respond to His actions and decisions.
2. God is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love and faithfulness.
3. God delights in forgiving wickedness, rebellion, and sin when people turn to Him.
4. Forgiveness is based on God's character, not on what we deserve or have done.
5. God's forgiveness is not permission to continue in sin.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does your understanding of God's character affect your trust in Him during difficult or confusing times?
2. The sermon states, "There's nothing more important in life than what you think about God." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
3. How do you reconcile God's forgiveness with the statement that "he does not leave the guilty unpunished"?
4. In what ways have you struggled with accepting God's forgiveness or forgiving yourself?
5. How can we ensure that we're not using God's grace as "permission to continue in sin"?

6. The sermon mentions three ways God deals with persistent sin. Which of these resonates most with your understanding of God's character?
7. How does the concept of "sin being its own punishment" challenge or affirm your view of consequences for actions?