

What the World Needs Now – Part 1 – Forgiveness

Discussion Questions

1. When you think about the world today, where do you see the greatest need for forgiveness? When someone hurts or wrongs us, why is our natural response often to get even or make them pay? What makes forgiveness so difficult?
2. Read Matthew 18:21-35. What stands out to you in this story? What do you think Jesus is trying to teach Peter about forgiveness?
3. The first servant receives an extraordinary amount of forgiveness, but refuses to extend even a little to someone else. Why do you think he responds this way? Where might we fall into the same trap?
4. We talked about how forgiveness doesn't mean ignoring injustice, removing consequences, or allowing someone to continue hurting us. Why is this distinction important? How might it change the way we understand forgiveness?
5. What does this parable teach us about God's character? How does seeing God as a forgiver, rather than a merciless judge or someone who simply overlooks wrongdoing, change the way we relate to him?
6. We said that forgiveness involves both receiving a gift we could never repay and allowing that gift to change the way we live. How have you experienced either of these in your own life?
7. "A world without forgiveness is a world without a future." Where have you seen unforgiveness keep a relationship or situation stuck in the past? What might become possible through forgiveness?

Moving Forward

What makes taking the step of offering (or asking for) forgiveness difficult? What would it look like to take one concrete step toward forgiveness this week? How can we encourage and pray for one another as we do that?