



These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 6:15, Matthew 18:21- 35, Luke 23:34

In following Jesus, we give up our rights to gain His life (Galatians 2:20). Forgiveness is unilateral. Reconciliation is bilateral. Forgiving doesn't mean a relationship is restored, it means a relationship is offered. Forgiveness is trusting that the redemptive, sovereign work of an Almighty God is eternally bigger than the wounding work of any finite human being in time. Forgiveness takes root when the energy of anger and the focus on the offense begins to be replaced by the joy of gratitude and a focus on Christ. Forgiven = Forgiving!

Pray

Lord, thank you for loving us! Lord, let our community be truly unoffendable. Let us encounter your word and bring it into our lives and apply it. We pray that we would give up our right to be angry at a broken world. We pray that we would see the big picture and understand how you are forgiven and extend that to others. When someone's name brings us negative energy, let it be replaced by Your name, love, and grace. Replace our selfishness with a forgiving spirit, Your Spirit, that heals our wounds and the wounds of our community.

Getting Started

- What is a pet peeve of yours?
- Why do you think it is so hard to not let small things bother us?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Matthew 18:21-35. How does this story continue to play out today?
2. Why do we love to be right? How does this conflict with our calling as a follower of Christ?
3. Share a time when grace was extended to you, how did it change you? How can it improve our lives to extend grace to someone?
4. What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation?
5. How can changing the context for our situation by considering that we have sinned against God change the way we consider those who have sinned against us?
6. How can you bring forgiveness into the small things in your life with those you love (children, spouse, etc.)?
7. Who do you need to forgive today? Whose debt do you need to cancel?

Living Jesus

When our hearts is open wide letting forgiveness in, it is open wide letting forgiveness out! Write a manifesto declaring how you will choose to forgive and be unoffendable. Take forgiveness all the way up to God, and all the way down to your home and community.

1. Be forgiven (because of Jesus) Romans 10:13
2. Be forgiving (because of Jesus) Ephesians 4:23

What's Your Story?

Have you made a decision to forgive someone? Consider how you have you been forgiven when you didn't deserve it. What lead to that decision and what came next? Share your story with others to highlight how the Spirit of God is moving today.

Share how God is working in your life at SevernRunner.info/stories.