Growth Group Sermon Questions:

Mar 21st, 2021

**The Challenge to Forgive**

**Matthew 18:21-35**

1. During this week’s message, we highlighted 4 reasons why people usually have a hard time meeting the challenge to forgive others (see the 4 reasons below). What has been the biggest barrier (reason) to you meeting the challenge to forgive others who have hurt you?
   1. Here are the 4 main reasons that studies have shown that explain why we have a difficult time forgiving other people:
      1. *We hold on to grudges because we think it will somehow punish the other person.*
      2. *We have issues with granting forgiveness to others because we are attempting to protect ourselves from getting hurt again.*
      3. *We believe that fairness and justice must first be served to the person or people group who wronged us before we can forgive.*
      4. *We subconsciously think that forgiving our perpetrator will excuse their behaviour that caused us so much pain in the first place.*
2. As followers of Jesus, we have all experienced the beauty of God’s forgiving mercies and grace in our lives. Please share with your group your testimony of when you first encountered the fullness of God’s forgiveness in your life.
3. In the parable of “*The Unmerciful Servant*” found in **Matthew 18:23-34**, we read the following in verse 33, “*Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?”* How would you counsel and advise a fellow Christian who is refusing to forgive someone who wronged them even though they are expected to forgive just as God has forgiven them?
4. Do you believe forgiveness includes granting full access to your life to the person or people who wronged you? Give reasons to support your answer.
5. Pastor Prince concluded to meet the challenge of forgiveness we need to remember that forgiveness is a process, and we must follow Christ’s example. If forgiveness is a process, how do we know when we have completely forgiven someone? How can we help each other with the challenge of forgiveness?