

MESSAGE GROUPS - BECOMING A FORGIVING FAMILY - MAY 26

LEADERSHIP THOUGHT:

To transform families, we have to focus on forgiveness. There is often hurt and residual pain from our past that can overflow into our relationships. Many times, we hurt and are hurt by the people we are closest to—like our parents, friends, spouse, or children. To let go of our pain and to create functioning families, we have to become a forgiving family. To become a forgiving family, we have to become a forgiving person. Jesus was able to forgive those who hurt him most, and we can find strength in God to forgive as well.

ICEBREAKER:

Did you have siblings or close childhood friends growing up? Think back to a time you had to forgive them for something or you had to ask for forgiveness. *Share the story and keep these fun and light-hearted!*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read **James 4: 1-2**.

- **Q:** Focus on verse 1: “Don’t they come from your desires and battles within you?” When have your unmet desires and selfishness caused problems in your relationships? Share a story as you feel led.
- **Q:** How did God help you redeem that relationship and find forgiveness?

Ephesians 4:22 tells us to let go of our old self and put on the new self that is made in the image of God. Only when we let go of control, lying/gossip, anger, and bitterness can we see the transformation of holiness in ourselves and family.

- **Q:** Do you struggle with control, lying/gossip, anger, or bitterness? Or have you seen all of these affect your relationships? Share your biggest struggle and how it’s affected you and those around you.

Proverbs 4:23 says, “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”

- **Q:** How can you give your struggles in relationship and family to God and start protecting your heart?

CLOSE

Forgiveness is a supernatural act that comes from God. Instead of trying to fix your problems/people, pray about them and give them to God. Don’t ask Him to fix them but to free them from what keeps them in chains.

Leaders: Ask to pray over specific people and relationships who are struggling with forgiveness or letting go of past hurt. Leave your group with Ephesians 4:32: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”