

Home Group Notes – Leaders Notes
Road Trip week 8 – “Foster Forgiveness”

Share it

What are some of the ‘costs’ of forgiving – and being forgiven – in everyday family life?
How did your family do at the challenging work of apology, forgiveness, and restoration?

Leaders: Highlight positives if possible, don’t get stuck in the weeds of all of our family dysfunction details.

Study the Bible

How do these passages clarify your understanding of the Bibles’ teaching on forgiveness?

Colossians 3:12-16

Leaders: Paul’s focus – as one of God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved – each day ‘put on the clothes’ He designed for you to wear – forgiving others just as (in the same manner) the Lord forgave you.

Ephesians 4:22-27

Leaders: Again, because of the ‘new self’ because of God’s indwelling Spirit – be careful not to allow anger to become sin...don’t harbor anger, brood over it, nurse it....put it to bed before you rest, so you can rest.

Romans 5:1-2. 6-8

Leaders: Because of Christ’s work on our behalf, God’s love is demonstrated to us in our ‘needy, sinful state’. Forgiveness is not earned by us.

I John 1: 5-9

Leaders: God is light, He invites us to walk in that light, and to experience His cleansing and forgiveness in our daily lives...a daily invitation.

Matthew 18: 21-35

Leaders: Peter’s question – how many times do I forgive – up to seven times? The rabbi’s consensus was that there was forgiveness extended three times, then no more forgiveness....Peter though he was being generous!

Discuss Together

What are some of the implications for our practice of forgiveness as we embrace the meanings of the three Greek words, *aphemie*, *apolou*, and *charizomai* – especially in our family life?

Leaders: the definitions of these words are in your sermon notes

“When you forgive, you in no way change the past – but you sure do change the future” – Practical ways you believe living by forgiveness does change the future of our relationships? Examples?

Leaders: Be prepared to share a personal example from your life & relationships....especially if you have been on the receiving end of forgiveness.

Where have you seen 'practiced forgiveness' redeem failure – in your life or in the life of those close to you?

A wise counselor, Dr. Henry Brandt, used to begin his counseling session with a couple by asking, "Before we start on your lists of grievances with each other, I would like to know, what do you need to confess and ask forgiveness for with each other?" Why this question? Applications for our home life?

Pray

- For opportunities this week to foster forgiveness in my closest relationships.
- For wisdom to consider the 'six steps' process and apply it to any wounded relationships.
- For a deeper understanding in my life of my forgiveness offered through the costly grace of the cross of Christ.

Apply it this week

Be alert to opportunities this week to 'foster' – "encourage, promote, nurture" forgiveness with someone close to you.