



STUCK IN UNFORGIVENESS

09-22-2024

WORSHIP (15 MINS)

Venue: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

Venue: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or **Via Online**,

Testimonies: "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"

Opening Prayer: Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to us how to know Christ in a deeper way.

WELCOME (15 MINS)

Welcome guests/first-time visitors.

Memory Verse for the week: Matthew 18: 22

Ice-breaker Q: Would you share a time when you forgave someone (a friend, family member, etc.) or a time someone forgave you? How did you feel about that experience?

WORD(30-45 MINS) Text: Matthew 18:21-35

Intro: Jesus shared a parable about a servant who received mercy from his master but failed to extend the same mercy to a fellow servant. In doing so, he not only harmed others but also himself. What lesson can we draw from this story to help us move beyond the wrongs others have done to us?

1. The unforgiving servant failed to value the mercy he was given - vv.32-33

Despite receiving forgiveness or leniency, he did not respond with the same gratitude or change his behavior accordingly. It suggests a lack of awareness or acknowledgment of the significance of the kindness extended to him. The servant remained trapped in unforgiveness, despite being shown an overwhelming act of mercy meant to free him from his debt and also his unforgiving attitude.

Q: What does it mean to truly value the mercy we have received from God?

Q: How can we keep the memory of God's mercy in our lives fresh in our minds?

God want us to constantly meditate on the mercy of God that we have received through the sacrificial death of Christ. Read **Colossians 3:12-13**

2. The unforgiving servant failed to recognize the consequences that accompanied his unforgiveness. - vv.32-35

He has no idea of the consequences of his unforgiveness towards others. Given the enormous forgiveness he had received from his master, he failed to extend the same mercy to his fellow servant. This then led to the consequences made by his master.

Q: Why do you think Jesus emphasized the comparison between the two kinds of debts owed by both servants in the parable?

Q: How does understanding the forgiveness we received from God help us to extend forgiveness to others?

Q: What do you think can be the possible consequences of holding on to unforgiveness?

(Some verses on Forgiveness: Matthew 5:23-24, 6:14-15, Mark 11:25, Luke 6:37, Luke 17:3-4)

Leader's Tips:

- S - Sensitivity. No one should feel left out.
- P - Participation is encouraged.
- A - Acknowledge. Make guests feel welcomed.
- C - Confidentiality. What is shared stays in the group.
- E - Encouragement. Be a blessing to one another.

Reflection:

Q: Can we take time sometime to think if we have unforgiveness in our hearts towards people we know?

Q: What practical ways can we do this week to reach to them and extend that forgiveness?

Commitment (10mins)

Challenge 1: We cannot forgive unless we have received the forgiveness of God. Ask the group if there's anyone who has not accepted Christ's forgiveness yet. Then, invite them to follow you in a simple prayer of surrendering their lives to Christ, (Lead people through Sinner's prayer).

Challenge 2: For those in the group struggling with unforgiveness, holding on to grudges and bitterness towards others, encourage them to surrender all their hurts and anger to the Lord in prayer. Tell them to ask the Lord for His grace to forgive and release people who has done them wrong. Proceed to prayer.

Conclusion: Today is a great time to start appreciating the mercy of God so we can be merciful to others in the same way He has been merciful to us. By His grace, we can choose to forgive because we ourselves have been forgiven. We need God's grace so we can be kind and compassionate to others in the same way God is to us and enjoy the peace that comes with it.

Closing Prayer: Instruct the group to go in pairs and pray for each other, asking God to help each other extend forgiveness to others, live in the freedom that comes from God.

What is your take-away from this lesson?

WORK: The Challenge (15 mins.)

P- Pray for one another. Ask "what can I pray for you?"

R- Remind to invite a friend on the next gathering.

A- Apply the message during the week.

Y- Yearn to share your faith with someone during the week.