



JESUS & FORGIVENESS WEEK OF MAR 16



READING ASSIGNMENT

This week, we are reading pages 177-190 of Dallas Willard's *The Scandal of the Kingdom*. The PDF of this chapter is available on our website at rockypeak.org/disciple. If you prefer a hard copy, you can pick one up at Starting Point on the patio of the Worship Center during weekend services. You can also access the reading by scanning the QR code here.



GETTING STARTED

This weekend, we learned that, as disciples of Jesus, forgiveness is a foundational part of our faith, and we unpacked what it looks like to forgive others, just as Christ has already forgiven us.

REMINDER: This is our last week of Life Groups for the Winter Life Group Session. You will spend some time discussing this weekend's message and study, as well as reflecting on all the good the Lord has done in you and in your Life Group during this session. You will also take communion together as a group.

Begin this study by reading these verses a few times, slowly. What do you sense God speaking to you through these verses? Be sure to write down anything He highlights for you.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:12-14



STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What were one or two of your top takeaways from the weekend message?
2. Think back to a time you chose to forgive someone. What was the process you took to get to that point of forgiveness?

- a. What healing or new freedom did you experience as a result of forgiving that person?
 - b. Now, reflect on a time when you were forgiven. What did that feel like, and how did that impact your life?
3. Let's revisit the parable Dre highlighted in the weekend message. Read **Matthew 18:21-35**.
 - a. What stands out to you the most from this story?
 - b. Which character do you find yourself identifying with the most? Why?
 - c. Write out in your own words what Jesus is trying to teach through this parable.
 - d. Why do you think the servant, who was forgiven such a large debt, refused to forgive someone else a much smaller debt?
 - e. According to verse 34, how does a lack of forgiveness affect our relationship with God?
 - f. When the King forgave the servant, He bore the total weight of the servant's debt (sin). Have you borne the weight of someone's sin against you through forgiveness? Explain.
4. We live in a culture that emphasizes "canceling" over forgiveness. Why do you think that is?
 - a. What might feel wrong to you about forgiving certain offenses? Does it feel like an injustice to you to "let someone off the hook" for their sins?
 - b. Read **Romans 12:19**. How does this verse challenge the way you typically respond to being hurt or to injustice?
5. Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? What might be hindering you from doing so?
 - a. Write out a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to lead you on this journey toward forgiveness.
6. In the message, Dre shared that *Forgiveness Unleashes Gratitude*. The more we experience God's forgiveness and what Christ has done for us on the cross, the more our hearts will naturally respond with tremendous thankfulness. Do you believe that you've been totally forgiven by God? Why or why not?
 - a. Read the following verses and write down for each what God has done for you as a Christ-follower.
 - **Isaiah 1:18**
 - **Psalms 103:12**
 - **Ephesians 1:7-8**
 - **Romans 8:1**
 - b. How do these verses enrich your understanding of God's forgiveness and increase your gratitude towards Him?
7. After reading Dallas Willard's chapter on *The Miracle of Forgiveness*, what is God teaching you through this reading?

- a. The Lord calls us to forgive someone even if we are still hurting. Willard shares the following on page 183:

If you're trying to stop hurting when you forgive, this may confuse you so much that you will not be able to forgive. Your hurt may go on, even though you've let the person off the hook and released your intention to get even with them. The mark of forgiveness is not that you no longer hurt: it is that you are no longer preoccupied with the hurt.

- i. How does this truth resonate with you? Is this a new concept?

8. Dre finished his message by inviting us to meditate on **Colossians 1:13-14**. Take a few minutes now to pause and reflect on these verses. Allow these words to become a prayer of thankfulness to the Lord for all He has done for you.



LOOKING BACK

Although the *Disciple* series isn't finished yet, during this Winter Life Group Session, we have already learned so much about what it means to be a *true* disciple of Jesus. Take some time to review each of your Life Group studies from the *Disciple* series so far. What has God been teaching you this session? How can these new insights be applied to your life? What new steps, if any, might the Lord be asking you to take in your walk with Him?



COMMUNION

This week, you will take communion during your Life Group. We celebrate communion together to remember what Christ has done for us on the cross. When we participate in communion, we are celebrating the Gospel! To prepare for this, read and reflect on Matthew 26:26-30 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.