

VALIDATE!

FACILITATORS GUIDE

Meeting # 11: *Chapter 10 - Forgiveness*

AGENDA: (Suggested times)

10 min. *Arrive early.*

10 min. *Engage each participant as they arrive.*

5 min. *Settle into group, PRAY*

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE TONIGHT:

Forgiveness is a supernatural, spirit directed, faith engaging act that I must first apply to myself before I can ever be effective in forgiving others. To fully appreciate and apply the cleansing and liberating power of the gospel, I must first be forgiven by Christ. I must confess that I am a sinner and apply His sacrifice to my life personally. As a forgiven sinner, I now have the capacity to engage God for the power and the humility it takes to forgive another person. Forgiveness is not listed as a fruit of the Spirit, but both my understanding and my experience have convinced me that it takes a work of the Spirit in me to fully engage forgiveness towards others. Forgiveness is not a work of the flesh; it is Spirit powered and embraced by faith. Through His power and in my brokenness and humility, I surrender to be a vessel of compassion, giving grace to others through forgiveness.

It is important to consider the phrases, “I forgive you.” Or, “I can’t forgive you.” These betray our source of power. Forgiveness is one of the most loving things we can ever engage in as a Christian, and remember – Love comes from God.

Please leave enough time to discuss the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation. I find it can be liberating to see a clear biblical distinction between the two.

20 min. *Conversation Starter* – Use one of the following:

Watch: Liam Nissan in Le Miserables – Chapter 1

How does the priest demonstrate forgiveness in this scene? What is the result of his sacrifice and kindness? How is forgiveness costly?

Read: New York Times Article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/04/06/magazine/06-pieter-hugo-rwanda-portraits.html>

What elements of forgiveness do these stories portray accurately about what we can expect when we forgive?

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Discuss overall content:

- What impacted you the most from Steps 1-4 (W-I-S-D)?
 - Scripture – Pick one passage that personally spoke to you and emphasize it each week. Relate it to life and the study.
 - Book Chapter 10?
 - Any insights from Step 4 (your response)?

55 min. *Group Study:* Discuss Step 5 (O).

Read the questions and encourage participation by everyone.

10 min. *Have the group complete Step 6 (M).*

5 min. Take time to pray for the individuals and couples in your group.

20 min. We are done, but please stick around for a few minutes if you can and get to know someone better.

Record any significant comments, questions, prayer requests, follow-up here:

1.

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