

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE



FIGHTING FAIR
APRIL FARMER
MARCH 10, 2024

If you would like to watch the message, visit rpc.me/messages.

READ

This week's relational nugget is forgiveness.

QUESTIONS

- Why do we all need forgiveness? (We all fall short and make mistakes whether intentionally or unintentionally and we need someone to release us of our wrongdoing.)
- Name a few ways we fall short and need forgiveness. (Hurting someone with our words, creating an offense by our actions, displaying an expression of anger, etc.)
- As a young child you likely engaged in the cadence of forgiveness. For example, as a sibling or friend, you threw away someone's favorite toy or pulled someone's hair and you had to tell them you were sorry and they had to say they forgave you. Why is it so unnatural or challenging to extend forgiveness as adults? (The offenses become more complex, our culture tells us to harness the hate and use that hate fire to fuel our life, or our pride gets in the way.)
- April said, "When debts go unsettled there are two options we can offer." What are those two options? (1) demand repayment or 2) forgive the debt) What is your go to?

- What does forgiveness mean to you? How have you experienced giving or receiving forgiveness?
- What two actions are required to forgive? (*Decide and align. Decide to cancel/release the debt one is owed, and align our behaviors and emotions to support that decision*) Why is “decide” the first action we take? (*If we wait for our emotions to be ready before we decide to forgive then we’ll never get there.*)
- Read Matthew 6:9-15. What do verses 12 and 14-15 say about forgiveness? (*The point Jesus was making is God has forgiven you of countless offenses against Him; therefore, you are to forgive other people’s offenses against you.*)

READ

Matthew 18:21-22 and Matthew 18:23-35.

QUESTIONS

- How many times are we to forgive others? (*Indefinitely, not just 77 times and you’re done!*)
- What does the master’s response to the servant in Matthew 18:23-35 teach us about God’s standard of forgiveness? From where should we forgive others, according to verse 35? (*from your heart, you bring your behavior and emotions in alignment with your decision to forgive*)
- April tells us that forgiveness is not easy, forgetting, condoning, denying or doing it just one time. Which one of these is most helpful for you about forgiveness? Most challenging?
- What happens if you wait for someone to say sorry before you forgive them? (*There’s a chance they may never say I’m sorry, you’ve allowed that person to be the captain over your path to freedom, anger, bitterness or resentment, and now you become the prisoner of the person who has broken you.*)
- To begin to forgive someone, what are three steps you can take? (*1. Pray and ask God to help you forgive. Pray for them continuously despite how you feel, 2. Bless them (read Romans 12:14), and 3. Do good by them (read Romans 12:17-21).*)
- What is the value of forgiveness in your life? (*Forgiveness can restore relationships and create space for healing in your life and in those whose life is connected to you.*)
- What point in this group discussion was most impactful for you?
- How will you apply the message to your life this week? What steps do you need to take in forgiving or reconciling with someone?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: How can the group pray for you now and in the days ahead?

LEADERS: Looking for something fun to do with your group?! Come as a group to Comedy Night Out on Friday, April 12th at 7pm. The Yard & Grill will be open from 6-7pm so come grab dinner with your group before the show! To learn more and register visit rpc.me/events or westend.me/events.