



Life Group
Discussion Guide
June 14, 2015

STARTING
OVER

Discussion Questions

Leader Notes

"Forgiveness allows you to carry the lessons of the past while leaving the luggage of the past."

- Andy Stanley

Helpful Hint: Get people involved in the discussion by asking non-threatening questions that will engage the whole group.

Discussion Kick Off

1. Have you ever wronged someone accidentally or on purpose, then owned your actions and asked that person for forgiveness? What do you think taking responsibility for your actions did for that person?
2. Have you ever seen a person unable to get past a wrong done to him or her by someone else? What affects did that have on him or her?

"I never find forgiveness easy and rarely do I find it completely satisfying. Nagging injustices remain and the wounds still cause pain. I have to approach God again and again, yielding to him the residue of what I thought I had committed to him long ago. I do so because the Gospels make clear the connection: God forgives my debts as I forgive my debtors."

- Philip Yancey

Evaluate It

1. Read Ephesians 4:26. Do you tend to resolve your anger quickly or do you have trouble letting it go? How does that affect your relationships? How do you think it affects the quality of your life?
2. During the message, Stuart asked, *"How long do you intend to allow the people who mistreated you to influence you?"* Talk about a time when you've given someone power in your life by holding a grudge against him or her.
3. What are some obstacles to deciding not to drag the wrongs others have done to you into your future? What would need to happen for you to overcome those obstacles?
4. Have you ever used your past as a way to remind you and not define you? In what ways did it remind you?

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

"In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

- Ephesians 4:26 -27, 31 - 32

Make It Personal

1. If you are waiting for someone to apologize, you have given him or her the keys to your future. Make a list of the things you may feel they owe you for.
2. Who is one person you need to forgive—not necessarily for his or her benefit but for your future? What can you do this week to take a step toward forgiving? How can this group support you?

At the end of the discussion, take a moment to take prayer requests from the **group (if you haven't done so) and pray** for your group before you end your time together.

Renee Napier *tells this story about forgiveness...* "On May 11, 2002 a 24-year-old drunk driver, Eric, killed one of my twins, Meagan and one of her friends, Lisa, both of which were 20 year old girls. This was devastating for all three families involved and countless friends that mourned the loss of these precious girls. But I chose rather than being bitter and bundling up all this anger towards Eric for a debt he could never repay to choose to forgive him. We even appealed to have his 22-year prison sentence reduced to 11 years. One day Eric told me because of Meagan and Lisa and forgiving him, he has received eternal salvation." By Renee forgiving Eric, she made a choice to humbly follow the example Christ set for us and God has used her step of faith to release healing into both of their lives, leading Eric to find his own personal freedom in Christ.

Starting a Table or Life Group? Take a look at the helpful information below:

Who establishes and makes up a table or life group?

1. Husband & Wife
2. Family
3. 2-5 Guys
4. 2-5 Ladies
5. 2-5 Couples

Where do they meet?

1. Kitchen table
2. Coffee table
3. Cafe table
4. Restaurant table
5. Picnic table
6. Work table
7. Round table

- Meeting (how often, how long): Weekly or bi-weekly (day and time is decided by the group). No more than 2 hours.
- Who should lead a table or life group? Leadership can be shared or the group may choose a leader.
- How long should the group stay together? The group should commit to stay together 6-8 weeks. Groups can renew their commitment to meet together at the end of that time, but initially groups should stay together 6-8 weeks.
- What happens if the group is too big to meet around a table? No table or life group should have more than 15 individuals. If a group grows to have more than 15 participants, there are two options:
 - Multiply into separate tables (groups of less than 15) or
 - Seek to establish a life group (10-20 participants)
- If you have any questions or would like to establish a life group, please contact Jason Fox at 270-765-4994 or jason@fcetown.com.

If you would like to talk with a minister,
call 270-765-4994 to set up an appointment or contact:

Stuart Jones stuart@fcetown.com Senior Minister
Chris Kiger chris@fcetown.com Student Minister
Jason Fox jason@fcetown.com Small Group Minister

Doug Mitchell doug@fcetown.com Connections Minister
Tim Hurd tim@fcetown.com Children's Minister
Shannon Smith Shannon@fcetown.com Assistant Children's Director