



LIFEGROUPS

Series: We are FOR Forgiveness

Scripture: Luke 8:36-50

Date: March 19 & 20, 2016

—[LET'S TALK]—

- Do you prefer people be blunt and up front with you, or carefully temper their words? Why?

—[LET'S WARM UP]—

- What do you think it means to know a person's heart?
- What is forgiveness? Is it justice/fairness? Does forgiving make sense in our world?
- Have you ever needed to ask someone for forgiveness? What did you experience?
- Do you think many people struggle with feelings of guilt or shame? Why?

—[LET'S DIG | CHOOSE 1]—

- Read John 2:23-3:21; Acts 15:5-11 and talk about God knowing our hearts.
 1. How much does God know our hearts? How much do we know?
 2. Does it comfort or worry you that God knows your heart and others' hearts? Why?
 3. Fully knowing our hearts, how does God treat us? How do we treat ourselves and others without full knowledge?
 4. What conclusions does Peter come to in Acts 15:8-11? What does this mean for us today?
- Read Matthew 18:21-35 and talk about forgiveness.
 1. What does it reveal about our heart when we forgive?
 2. How many times should we forgive someone? Why?
 3. Why was the unforgiving servant treated so harshly?
 4. What message do we send others and God when we choose not to forgive?

—[LET'S ACT]—

- Commit yourself to letting go of accusations and condemnations that you hear, or have heard, from yourself or from others. On post-its, note cards, or small pieces of paper, write down the sins or circumstances from your past that you harbor shame over. Once you have them written, put them in an envelope. On that envelope write in big, bright letters: "[your name] is forgiven once and for all. Accusations and condemnations mean nothing and hold no power. [your name] is forgiven!" Seal the envelope and keep it on your dresser or at your desk as a reminder.

—[SERMON REVIEW]—

- God loves you and you cannot possibly earn his love and forgiveness.
- No matter what you have thought, said or done God extends His mercy and forgiveness towards you.
- God's love and forgiveness are accessed by approaching Him in confidence, humility and repentance.
- The only voice we need to hear is the voice of Jesus; let His pronouncement of forgiveness and peace silence all others!

—[NOTES]—
