



JESUS ON THE ROAD

Forgiveness

Week of April 10, 2016

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

Share Your Experience This Week #SevernRun

Message Recap:

Read Matthew 9:1-8

God wants us to see the value in the forgiveness he offers. But, in order to be forgiven we must accept his gift freely. God's wants us to recognize our natural sinful state as it is, not that it is impossible to get out of, but that it has been forgiven if only we will accept his gift. We all have a choice to make. God has given us a way to get out of our natural state of sin, but we must choose for ourselves whether or not we will accept it and trust in him. We might think we know what we really need in life, but God has a different idea. He has offered us forgiveness, but we must choose whether we want to accept it or choose to live our lives in our sin. There is nothing so wrong that we have done that disqualifies us from this forgiveness. If we want to cease to be controlled by our mistakes, we must fully embrace his forgiveness in our lives. It is not something that is easy for us to understand. Accepting forgiveness means letting life move forward supernaturally in an ever-increasing freedom.

Pray

Prepare our hearts to see the greatest gift that you gave to us and to not be distracted by the things that we think we need, for your gift is the one we need the most in our lives. Guide us into forgiveness, that we may be forgiven, and that we may also forgive others. Thank you that we can know a life free from the weight of all our sins. Thank you, Father, for your gift of forgiveness.

Getting Started

- When was a time when you got something that you'd really wanted for a long time? Was it all you thought it would be?
- Were you ever forgiven for something when you felt like you didn't deserve to be forgiven?

Listening Deeply

1. Where do you feel you are: stuck in your sins (or perhaps just one sin), unhappily religious, or gratefully free in forgiveness?
2. Have you ever prayed to ask God for what *he* wants? Did you find something you didn't expect?
3. Read Isaiah 64:6. Have you ever felt this way before? Do you feel this way now? (After everyone has shared read Romans 8:1-2)
4. What would it mean to you if everyone you'd ever wronged would completely forgive you and wipe the slate clean?
5. Are there people in your life who you think it would mean the world if *you* forgave *them*?
6. Is your life more "natural", or supernatural? Frozen, or free? Grieving, or grateful? What will it take to shift you out of the places you might be stuck in?
7. How can you share the amazing grace you've been given with those people around you who desperately need it?

Living Wide in Jesus

Jesus paid the ultimate price so that we might be free from the weight of our own humanity. We are naturally sinful, but God's unending love has made it possible for us to live life in a supernatural state; a state free from sin. All we have to do is accept it and embrace it, letting it shine through our lives into the lives of all those we touch.

- **Repent.** Turn from the path of sin and choose the path that leads to eternal life with God.
- **Take heart.** Be courageous and know that you have a Father who infinitely loves you!
- **Head home healed.** Don't be caught in the tragedies of the past, but instead look ever onward towards the light of Heaven. Live in the here and now and bring as many people with you as you can on your journey home.