

Small Group Curriculum

Week of 04/20/13

1. Imagine you were a family member of someone severely injured or killed during the events of the past week in Boston. What would it be like having to forgive the Tsarnaev brothers?
2. What examples can you think of in the news or from your personal experience where you've seen someone forgive the unforgiveable? How do you feel when you witness an event like this?
3. Read Matthew 5:43-48. Pastor Derek noted that within the Roman religion it was common for people to ask the gods to destroy the lives of the people who offended them. How might Jesus' words have been received by a culture brutally oppressed by the Romans?
4. What are the consequences of being caught up in a cycle of revenge?
5. Jesus didn't merely command his followers not to take revenge but to love their enemies. What do you think it means to love an enemy? What can't it mean?
6. Read Luke 23:33-34. How do these verses give Jesus the moral authority to demand that we forgive and love our enemies?
7. What's the difference between forgiving an enemy and merely making excuses for their poor behavior?
8. Read Mark 11:25. How do you forgive someone who doesn't apologize to you?
9. Read Romans 12:19. How does abstaining from taking revenge demonstrate our confidence in God's justice?
10. Pastor Derek taught that forgiveness does not necessarily lead to a reconciled or trusting relationship. In what situations would it be inappropriate to restore a relationship to its condition before the offense?
11. When you are deeply offended, sometimes forgiveness is a process. What commitments would you need to make in order to walk through a long process of forgiveness?