

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Discipleship Journey – Forgiveness

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what forgiveness is and why it is important to forgive?
2. What can we learn from David's example in Psalm 16:8? (**David said; "I keep my eyes always on the Lord..."**).
3. How is Jesus our greatest example of forgiveness according to Luke 23:34? (**Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**)
4. How does Paul encourage believers to forgive like Jesus in Colossians 3:13b? (**...Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**)

 Let's go deeper

5. Why is Jesus' forgiveness so great according to Hebrews 8:12? (**For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**).
6. To whom should we confess our sin, in order to receive forgiveness? (**Ps. 51:4; Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil.**).
7. How often should we forgive those who sin against us? (**Matt.18:22; Jesus answered, I tell you not even 7 times, but seventy-seven times.**)
8. What happens when we refuse to forgive? (**Hebrews 12:18; See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root "poison" grows up to cause trouble and defile many.**)

 Let's apply this

**9. Hebrews 12:18;** See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

The meaning of bitterness is **poison**. Unforgiveness leads to bitterness that is like poison that can kill fruitfulness, peace and even our physical health.

- Do you believe God has forgiven you of your sin?
- Is there anyone you feel you need to forgive for something they did against you?
- Is there anyone you need to ask forgiveness from?

SUMMARY:

**Discipleship Journey – Forgiveness**

**Read:** Luke 23:34 and Hebrews 12:18

**Psalm 16:8;** David said, I keep my eyes always on the Lord... Jesus is our greatest example of true forgiveness. He forgave the people who wrongfully harmed Him, to such an extent that He even asked His Father to forgive them. Forgiveness is unconditionally and completely letting go of the wrong done to you and not keeping an account against someone or something.

**Hebrews 8:12;** For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. God not only forgives sin, but He also remembers it no more.

**Colossians 3:13;** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Jesus' death on the cross, completely fulfilled the requirement for the penalty of our sins, no additional offering is required. In the same manner, we need to forgive people without holding a record of wrong against them. Forgiving someone does not mean that we agree with the wrong they committed or that we allow the wrong to continue. Forgiveness means that we do not have anger or bitterness in our hearts towards that person for what they did.

**Psalm 51:4;** Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. We confess our sins to God, for all sins are ultimately against God.

**James 5:16;** Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Many times, when we battle with sin, we need to humble ourselves by becoming accountable to someone else. This act of humility releases the grace of God and empowers us to overcome with the help and support of other people.

**Matthew 18:21 – 22;** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. How many times do we need Jesus to forgive us? Daily. In the same way we should forgive others, cultivating a lifestyle of forgiveness.

**Hebrews 12:15;** See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. The word bitterness means poison, when we refuse to forgive, we will be poisoned by a root of bitterness. Unforgiveness will result in spiritual death and unfruitfulness in our own lives.

- Do you believe God has forgiven you of your sin?
- Is there anyone you need to ask forgiveness from?