

UNDIVIDED

This study guide will help us turn what God is saying to us into action steps. The questions and scriptures are here to help us take our "Next Steps." Have a great discussion!

Prayer & Ice Breaker:

HOW DO YOU NATURALLY ACT WHEN YOU'RE UPSET WITH SOMEONE? SHARE WITH YOUR GROUP. (*i.e. Ignore them, yell at them, pretend like nothing happened, etc.*)

Read:

Each of us have been hurt and/or disappointed by someone at some point in our life and it will happen again in the future. What we choose to do with that hurt and disappointment is what matters the most. In the Word of God, we can learn how to properly handle these feelings. Read the scripture below:

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." (Colossians 3:12-13)

We see in Colossians 3:12-13 the importance of forgiving others as God has forgiven us. Jesus Himself also gave instruction to live forgivingly! Read the following passage:

"Then Peter came up and said to him, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" (Matthew 18:21-22)

Discussion:

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A DIFFICULT TIME FORGIVING SOMEONE? HAVE YOU EVER HAD A DIFFICULT TIME RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM SOMEONE? WHY? SHARE WITH YOUR GROUP.

Read:

The ability to forgive can be very difficult, but with the help of God it is possible! Through the process of forgiveness, God desires to bring healing, reconciliation, and overall transformation in our hearts and lives. Let's read on.

"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." (Romans 12:16-18)

This scripture confirms for us the importance of living in peace and harmony with others. The ability to have a relationship with other people is an attribute of God Himself, as He relates amongst the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When we choose to walk through the journey of forgiveness, we are allowing God the opportunity to heal us from our deepest wounds and to help us reconcile our relationship with those we must forgive.

Discussion:

It's difficult to live a life pleasing to God while harboring unforgiveness toward our offenders. Inability to forgive prevents our ability to relate to our heavenly Father who has ultimately forgiven us.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO WORK CLOSELY WITH SOMEONE THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH? WAS IT EASY TO WORK WITH THEM? SHARE WITH YOUR GROUP.

Read:

Taking the steps toward forgiveness is truly a step of faith. However, one of the greatest gems to be collected through the journey of forgiveness is the transformation that takes place in our heart when we trust God to work in us. We see a perfect example of this transformation in the story of a man named Joseph, who was envied and sold into slavery by his own brothers. Read the passage below:

"But Joseph said to them, 'Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.'" (Genesis 50:19-20)

In this exchange, we see how Joseph opened his heart to God, ultimately resulting in his ability to forgive his brothers and recognize how God was able to take what was meant to be evil and redeem it for good.

What Will You Do?

Let's follow the example of Joseph and how he allowed God to bring healing, reconciliation, and transformation in his life through the journey of forgiveness.

This week, begin asking God to search your heart and reveal to you any areas in your life that you still need to open up to Him. Pray for any roots of unforgiveness in your heart to surface and for the courage to begin the walk of forgiveness.