

WEEK 43:

FIGHTING LIKE FAMILY

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 17:1-10

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Nehemiah 9:17, Matthew 5:23-24, 6:14-15 and 18:21-35; Mark 11:25, Luke 6:37, Ephesians 4:25-27 and 31-32, Colossians 3:12-13

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. This is hard. It is perhaps not so hard to forgive a single injury. But to forgive the incessant provocations of daily life – to keep on forgiving the bossy mother-in-law, the bullying husband, the nagging wife, the selfish daughter, the deceitful son – how can we do it? Only, I think, by remembering where we stand, by meaning our words when we say ... ‘Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.’ We are offered forgiveness on no other terms. To refuse it means to refuse God’s mercy for ourselves.”

– C. S. Lewis

LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Read Luke 17:3-4. Do you have any ongoing, unresolved relational conflict? Who are you currently struggling to forgive? What makes it difficult for you to forgive them?

In the sermon, we looked at how rebuke means to give something appropriate weight. As a LifeGroup, do we have a healthy culture of rebuke and confrontation? Are we more likely to make too big a deal about sin or ignore it and not deal with it?

Read Luke 17:5-6. Why do the disciples respond to Jesus’ teaching by asking Him to increase their faith? What makes ongoing forgiveness for the same issue specifically trying?

Read Luke 17:7-10, 1 Timothy 1:15 and Matthew 18:21-35. What are the root problems of unforgiveness and bitterness? How does the gospel deal with these root issues to motivate and empower us to forgive in an ongoing and costly manner?

Like at the Gatherings, take some time to deal with any interpersonal conflict between members of the group. Pray for a healthy understanding of confession, confrontation for our group. Pray for faith to be able to forgive fully and genuinely, as we have been fully and genuinely forgiven.