

HUMBLE & HUNGRY

WEEK 2 | LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CONNECT

- Share a story about a time you received a gift that came as a complete surprise.

CONSIDER

- What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

CHRIST

Read Luke 23:32-38 together.

- There are several characters in these few verses: the criminals (guilty), the crowd (stood by watching), the rulers (sneering with contempt), the soldiers (mocking), and Jesus (innocent and forgiving). **Put yourself in the shoes of each character, which resonates with you.**
- Forgiveness always begins with the individual (Matthew 6:12), before forgiving others. It overflows out of God's forgiveness. Many people struggle with knowing that Jesus forgives and being forgiven. **Why do you think this is so? What helps remind you that you are forgiven?**
- Take a moment and read Psalm 32:5, Proverbs 28:13, Colossians 3:12-15, 1 Timothy 1:12-16, & 1 Peter 2:23-25. **What words or ideas stand out to you from each of these passages? Why? As a group, write down everything you learned about forgiveness.**
- In Luke 23:34, the Greek verb for forgive seems to indicate that this prayer may have been repeated multiple times by Jesus on the cross. In the midst of an excruciating death, Jesus was focused on the brokenness of those around Him. **For you personally, what are the most meaningful ways God has shown you forgiveness?**

Read Ephesians 4:31-32 together.

- When we are wronged, it can be boiled down to a feeling that someone has stolen something from me, or they owe me. If left unchecked, these feelings can snowball into the 6 attitudes listed in verse 31. Forgiveness is a process, and sometimes we don't want to go on that journey; we want to hold on to the grudge. **What are some of the reasons people have for holding onto grudges and not forgiving?**

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- We often think forgiveness will add to our suffering, but unforgiveness actually traps us in suffering. Lisa Terkeurst writes, “Staying here, blaming them, and forever defining your life by what they did will only increase the pain. Worse, it will keep projecting out onto others. The more our pain consumes us, the more it will control us. And sadly, it’s those who least deserve to be hurt whom our unresolved pain will hurt the most.”¹ **How have you experienced this in your life and relationships? Using Ephesians 4:31-32 as a guide, do you see any evidence or symptoms of a lack of forgiveness toward others or yourself?**
- When we build relationships with others we will occasionally hurt them. Sometimes it’s not about offering forgiveness but asking for it. **Which is harder for you, offering forgiveness or asking for forgiveness? Why? Is there a situation right now where you need to ask someone for forgiveness?**
- Relationships are messy. Depending on the hurt, forgiveness can be tough, because it’s not always a 2 way street. **What is the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation? Can you have one without the other? Why or why not?**

CALLING

- Everyone has a forgiveness next step to take. **Do you need to accept God’s forgiveness? Do you need to offer forgiveness to someone that has wronged you? Or, do you need to seek out forgiveness from someone you have wronged?** Pray over these three questions and step toward where God is leading.
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with the *Humble & Hungry* devotions. Text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in Northside’s App for Daily Devotions.
- **Memorize:** “*Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’*” Luke 23:34a (NIV).
- **Further Study:** *Forgiving What You Can’t Forget* by Lisa Terkeurst

¹ Lisa Terkeurst, *Forgiving What You Can’t Forget* (Thomas Nelson, 2020).