



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

Series: CRAZY LOVE

Message: Forgiveness: The Real “F” Word



Forgiveness is the cornerstone of the Christian life. Because of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Christ-followers are completely and eternally forgiven from their sins. Forgiveness feels great—as long as we are the beneficiaries. But like almost everything in life, there are two sides to the coin. We like being forgiven, but not forgiving others, but God can use “The Real F Word” to radically transform our lives!

PRAYER: God, give us the courage and power to forgive as you forgive. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

ICEBREAKER: What is your earliest memory of somebody forgiving you?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. I’ve discovered something about the real F-word. Forgiving someone, or you could say unleashing unforgiveness, is unnatural. The bottom line is I don’t like to do it, and you don’t either. When someone hurts me, when someone damages me, when someone says something against me; I like to hold a grudge. I want to get back at them. When someone tells me I should forgive them, I don’t like it because it flies in the face of every natural instinct I have. Why do you think it is so unnatural to forgive someone who has hurt you?
2. Jesus talked about forgiving in Matthew 18. Simon Peter was listening and must have been dealing with unforgiveness in his life. He made some serious assumptions about forgiveness—assumptions that were wrong, but assumptions that we have all made. Imagine you found out someone in your life had spread some nasty lies about you. If that person came to you and asked for forgiveness, what would you do? What if that same person kept spreading lies about you? How many times do you think you could offer that person forgiveness?
3. Why do you think we so easily ignore how much we have been forgiven when it is our turn to offer forgiveness?

CHALLENGE: Take your hands and make a fist as you bow your heads for a moment. Let it represent something you’re holding on to. What kind of unforgiveness, resentment or anger are you clenching? To forgive means to release. Do that now in prayer.

CHAMPION TIP: Some people in your group might feel uncomfortable sharing what they would really do in this situation. They may feel like they need to say the “church” answer. Encourage everyone to be honest with the emotions they would feel in this situation. Let them know it is normal to be angry or hurt.