

Small Group Questions:

Break the Ice:

1. When was a time that someone forgave you of something?
2. Is it easier for you to give or receive forgiveness? Why?

What do I think?

1. When you think about the crucifixion, what pictures come to mind?
2. How does it make you feel that Jesus' first words from the cross were words of forgiveness?
3. What does it mean to you practically on a daily basis to forgive others?

What does God say?

1. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25 – How do these verses describe what Jesus did for us?
2. What do these verses say was the outcome of Jesus' sacrifice?
3. Read Matthew 6:9-15 – What does Jesus say is our responsibility when it comes to forgiveness?
4. Why do you think it's the only part of the Lord's Prayer that Jesus further explains?

What steps will I take?

1. What can you do to make sure you're receiving God's forgiveness?
2. How can you make sure you're forgiving those who have wronged you?

Challenge:

This week, spend time thinking about what Christ has done for you on the cross. Picture yourself in the crowd watching the crucifixion and hearing Christ's first three words spoken in utter agony: "Father, forgive them..." If you haven't received God's free gift of forgiveness, do so today, surrender your life to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you people in your life who you have been reluctant to forgive. When He does, forgive them completely of any wrong they've done to you and release your right to hold it against them.