

THE FORGIVEN LIFE

A PEOPLE MADE NEW
THROUGH JESUS

STUDY 1

Luke 15:11-32

OUR REPENTANCE, GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Big idea

Jesus has forgiven us more than we could ever repay, and that kind of mercy slowly reshapes how we treat other people

Votre texte de paragraphe

DISCOVER

Read Luke 15:11-32

As we listen, notice who are the main characters in this story. Is there anything specifically that do you notice about each?

What does the younger son request (v12)?

What does the younger son realise about himself? And what does he decide to do?

What do you think the word "repent" means? How might we see repentance in the younger son's decision to return to his father?

What do we already know about the father? (verses 12 and 17)

What is the father's response to the son's return? (v20-24)

What does this tell us about how God responds to us when we repent?

Read Psalm 103:10-12. What do we learn about God's character from these verses? Is there a time when you have received God's forgiveness which has left an impact on your life? If appropriate, share this experience with the group.

Is the elder brother's response reasonable? (verses 29-30) Do you think that he really knows his father? (verse 29) Why?

Why do you think Jesus mentioned the elder Son? Why is he important for the story? (Luke 15:1-2)

NURTURE

Do you feel you can identify more with one son or the other? Both sons needed to repent and to know God's forgiveness. Do you know what it means for you to repent and know the forgiveness of your Heavenly Father?

Some questions to ponder:

- Have you turned to Christ in repentance and faith? Have you (do you – it's not just a one off) turned from your sin, and turned to God?
- Do you know the joy of God's forgiveness?
- Are you tempted to take God's grace and forgiveness for granted?
- Have you taken your place at the table of repentant sinners, bound together by the forgiveness of God, A People made New?

STUDY 2

FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

Matthew 18

Big idea

Jesus has forgiven us more than we could ever repay, and that kind of mercy slowly reshapes how we treat other people.

A note before you begin...

Forgiveness does not mean pretending something didn't hurt. It does not mean staying in an unsafe situation, ignoring bullying, or letting someone keep harming you. Forgiveness is about not letting revenge, bitterness, or payback become the boss of our hearts. Sometimes the most faithful next step is telling a safe adult and getting help.

DISCOVER

Read Matthew 18:21–35

As we listen, notice who receives mercy, who refuses mercy, and what Jesus wants us to see about forgiveness.

Discussion Questions

What stands out to you in this story?

Look at verse 21. What question does Peter ask Jesus? What do you think he is really wanting to know?

In verse 22, how does Jesus answer Peter? Do you think Jesus is giving an exact number, or making a bigger point?

Parable Questions

What does the king show us about God?

Compare verse 26 and verse 29. What do you notice about what both servants say?

What does the first servant not understand about the mercy he received?

Why do you think it is sometimes easier to receive forgiveness than to give it?

Why do you think Jesus cares so much about forgiveness in community?

What is the difference between forgiving someone and pretending what they did was okay?

What part of the story feels uncomfortable or challenging? Why?

If you had to give this parable a title, what would you call it?

NURTURE

Two Hands Activity

Ask everyone to hold out both hands.

"Imagine one hand is receiving forgiveness from God.

The other hand is offering forgiveness to others."

You don't need to answer these out loud, have a think through:

Hand One: Receiving Forgiveness

- Where do I need to remember that God has been kind to me?
- Is there something I keep feeling ashamed about?
- Do I believe God actually wants to forgive me?
- Am I trying to pay God back, instead of receiving grace?

Remember: The king forgave the debt because he had compassion. That is what God is like. He is not waiting for you to magically fix yourself before you come to him.

Hand Two: Offering Forgiveness

- Is there someone I am holding anger towards?
- Am I replaying what they did over and over in my mind?
- Do I want them to hurt because they hurt me?
- What would it look like to give that hurt to God instead of carrying it by myself?

Remember: Forgiving someone does not mean you have to trust them straight away. It does not mean you have to be best friends. It does not mean you stay silent if someone is hurting you. But it does mean we ask God to help us release revenge and let him be the judge.

