



Life of Love Week 5 Discussion & Reflection Guide

Questions and Prompts

- **What stood out to you from Sunday's service?** How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message's main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Read Luke 17:4-5. After the disciples hear Jesus talk about how they must forgive, they say to Jesus, "Show us how to increase our faith." **Pause and pray using those words. Ask Jesus to use the practice of forgiveness to grow your faith.**
- Michael shared that "forgiveness cannot simply flow to us, but it must flow through us." He used the illustration of a water filter to suggest that we would sift out the toxins and not allow them to pass through us.
 - **How have you received God's forgiveness in your life?**
 - **Do you see yourself as a forgiven person?**
 - **How can you let the forgiveness you've received flow from you to others?**
- Read Matthew 18:21-35. Read it slowly several times.
 - **What do you notice about Jesus? What surprises you? What challenges you?**
 - Michael shared this about Matthew 18:22 - "There is no limit, no place for keeping a tally of forgiveness already used up. Peter's question was misconceived: if one is still counting... one is not forgiving." -RT France
Where in your life/with whom are you keeping score?
- **Is there anything else from the message you want to explore more deeply this week?**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Message Main Points & Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 13:5 – “Love... keeps no record of being wronged.”
- **Pain that is not transformed is transmitted.**
- **“Any pain or tension that we do not transform, we will transmit. In the face of jealousy, anger, bitterness, and hatred, we must be like water purifiers, holding the poisons and toxins inside of us and giving back just the pure water, rather than being like electrical cords that simply pass on the energy that flows through them.”**

— Ronald Rolheiser

- Luke 17:4 NLT – “Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.”
- Luke 17:5 NLT – “The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Show us how to increase our faith.’”
- **Forgiveness requires faith**
- Mark 2:5-12-5 NLT Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, “My child, your sins are forgiven.” But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, “What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!” Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, “Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or ‘Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk’? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!” And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, “We’ve never seen anything like this before!”
- **Jesus is the source of forgiveness.**
- **We are forgiven people.**
- Matthew 18:21 – Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”
- Matthew 18:22 – “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”
- Matthew 18:23-34 NLT – “Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn’t pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt.
“But the man fell down before his master and begged him, ‘Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.’ Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. “But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. “His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.
“When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. “That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

- **Jesus is the source of forgiveness.**
- **We are forgiven people.**
- **Forgiveness cannot simply flow to us. It must flow through us.**
- **"By not forgiving, I chain myself to a desire to get even, thereby losing my freedom. A forgiven person forgives. This is what we proclaim when we pray 'and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us. This lifelong struggle lies at the heart of the Christian life.'" – Henri Nouwen**
- **"Human forgiveness relies on divine forgiveness." –Tim Keller**
- **God is a God of holy love AND holy wrath.**