

Forgive Us, As We Forgive

Matthew 6:12, 14-15
Small Group Questions
WEEK OF MARCH 8-14, 2026

- (1) Read Matthew 6:9-15. Notice that verse 12 is a continuation of verse 11 (it begins, "... and..."). Verse 11 focuses on our need for God's provision. How does verse 12 continue the theme of bringing God our needs?
- (2) How do we know that Jesus is teaching us in this petition about our ongoing need for relational forgiveness from God day-by-day (rather than our once-for-all eternal forgiveness and justification)?
- (3) How come regular confession of sin and petition for pardon is such an important part of the Christian life (Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-2:1)?
- (4) How does John 13:5-11 serve as a fitting illustration of the difference between our once-and-for-all forgiveness (justification) and the kind of forgiveness Jesus has in mind here (our sanctification)?
- (5) When we pray, "Forgive us as we have forgiven," are we asking God to forgive us *because* we forgive others? In other words, are we seeking mercy on the basis of the good work of our forgiveness? Why or why not? (Please back up your reflections with Scripture as much as possible.)
- (6) How does Jesus connect our forgiveness of others on earth with our forgiveness from our Father in heaven in these verses? How come that may make us uncomfortable?
- (7) Try to identify from these texts some biblical reasons why we should extend forgiveness to others – feel free to add other biblical reasons:

Romans 12:17-19
John 13:12-15 & Ephesians 4:32
Romans 13:8
Leviticus 19:17-18
Philippians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:43-48

- (8) What commitments of forgiveness were mentioned in the sermon? Why is each important?
- (9) How come the temptation to bitterness is so strong with certain people in our lives? How can we truly walk in forgiveness when it's especially hard? Make sure to bring the Gospel and communion with God into the heart of your reflections!