

**Dig Deeper @Home – “True Forgiveness”
Complement to lesson on 04/26/2020 – “Based on Love”**

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Would you rather have all traffic lights you approach be green or never have to stand in line again?
2. What is the most beautiful story of forgiveness (experienced or film/story) you have ever heard?

MEMORIZE – Philemon v4-6

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.

READ Philemon

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What are your initial thoughts when you read Philemon 1:8-16?
What sticks out to you? What did you like? What didn't you like?
2. What general text observations can you make? Anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
3. Paul was asking something of Philemon that was probably INCREDIBLY hard for him to do: forgive a runaway slave who had wronged him, but Paul himself experienced betrayal by John Mark on one of his missionary journeys. Read Acts 15:36-41. Have you experienced abandonment as Paul did with Mark? Have you ever had such a large fight with a friend that you went your separate ways as Paul did with Barnabas? How did these experiences effect you?
 - a. Turn now to 2 Timothy 4:11-13. It seems Paul and Mark have patched up their relationship. Have you ever experienced a restored relationship? What steps were necessary to bring about healing?
4. What is this passage revealing about God? About us as humans?
5. In light of these revealed truths, what changes might you need to make, and how do you feel you are being called to put this into action?

Experiential activity – Hearing someone struggle with forgiveness

Look up the song “There’s Only Forgiveness” by John Reuben here...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DSE8SZJV7aM>

If your family or group is a fan of rap music, listen through the song without the lyrics first and see what stands out to you. Then read the lyrics together.

Lyrics: <https://genius.com/John-reuben-theres-only-forgiveness-lyrics>

Can you relate to any of the frustration being expressed? Is anyone dealing with a struggle to forgive right now? If so, write down the concern and remember it in prayer when you arrive to the “pray” section of this dig deeper guide.

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Like an Avalanche - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ2_Gg6ka-k&list=RDFJ2_Gg6ka-k&start_radio=1

This is Amazing Grace- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFRjr_x-yxU

To God be the Glory– Mennonite Hymnal 532

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Merciful Lord,

Thank you for your gift of forgiveness. Your only Son loved me enough to come to earth and experience the worst pain imaginable so I could be forgiven. Your mercy flows to me in spite of my faults and failures. Your Word says to “clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.” (Col. 3:14) Help me demonstrate unconditional love today, even to those who hurt me. Amen