



“Forgive Us Our Debts”

March 26th, 2023
CG Discussion Guide

CATCHING UP ON LIFE

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As A church family, we care about each other’s lives: what we’re celebrating, what we’re mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)
Suggested time: 10 minutes

- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus’ presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus’ presence this week?

REVIEW THE MISSION

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) · *Suggested time: 10-15 minutes*

- People:
 - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
 - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, Serve CLT partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Charlotte)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Plan:
 - Are there any hangouts already planned, or an extra hangout we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?
- Pray:
 - Prayer is the fuel of God’s mission. Let’s pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

SCRIPTURE AND SERMON DISCUSSION

Special note to leaders – This week, we would suggest splitting your group to men and women so that you can spend the majority of the time confessing sins to one another. In essence, we think Scripture + Sermon Discussion this week will feel like a sermon-adjacent extended time of Care and Prayer.

Read Matthew 6:7-15

1. What is the Holy Spirit showing you in these passages about God or about yourself?

Sermon Recap

Have someone read:

We feel uniquely exposed when someone in authority over us shows us our weaknesses. Even more so, exposing those weaknesses to our Father can feel even more difficult. Our debts in relationship to God is the weight of our sin of rejecting Him that we cannot repay. When we pray “forgive us our debts” we are reminding ourselves of the debt that was paid, as well as communing with God to specifically name our sin and repent, leading to our sanctification. This also should lead us to forgive others because of the immense debt that we were forgiven of by God. To engage in this prayer, we should deeply examine ourselves to specifically name the ways in which we fall short of God’s commands, and grow a deeper relationship with Him as we approach Him in vulnerability, humility, and thanksgiving.

2. What did the Holy Spirit teach you through the sermon? What do you feel encouraged or challenged to do after hearing the Word preached?

Read:

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” - James 1:22

The goal of our CG discussion times is not to simply recap what we “liked” about the sermon, although that is helpful, the goal is to work into our lives, to talk about how we might apply God’s Word, and to make plans for the week to come as a community seeking to follow Jesus together. In light of that.

3. How do you relate to the idea of feeling vulnerable and exposed when confessing your sins to God?
4. What do you need to confess to us that you confessed to God on Sunday?

After everyone has a chance to share, spend time in prayer for one another.

After the discussion, check-in with your group about their time in prayer through the Lent Guide. For those that are doing it, ask them to share how it is going, and encourage others to participate with their own copy or the digital version at <https://www.citizenscharlotte.com/lent-2023> throughout Lent.