

SERMON

DISCUSSION GUIDE

“And Forgive Us Our Debts” (Matthew 6:12a)

BIG QUESTION

How can we be forgiven?

Pre-Questions

1. When you think about the word “debts” in this verse, do you think more of money or of sin? Why?
2. Can you think of a time when receiving forgiveness from someone changed your relationship with them?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ MATTHEW 6:12A

Why do you think Jesus uses the image of “debts” to talk about sin? How does this help us understand the seriousness of sin?

2. READ PSALM 51:1-4

How does David’s prayer for mercy help us see the right posture before God when we seek forgiveness?

3. READ COLOSSIANS 2:13-14

Paul says God has canceled “the record of debt” against us. What does this teach us about the completeness of God’s forgiveness through Christ?

4. READ 1 JOHN 1:8-9

- A. What does it mean to confess our sins honestly? How does God’s promise to forgive give us freedom to live without hiding or pretending?
- B. How does regularly praying for forgiveness keep our relationship with God vibrant and honest?

Theological Reflection

5. Forgiveness is not earned but given through grace. Jesus paid our debt in full at the cross. Why is it important to remember this when we come to God in confession?

Application

6. Take time each day this week to confess specific sins to God, thanking Him for the forgiveness you have in Christ.
7. Ask God to reveal if there is any sin you are ignoring or excusing, and to give you the humility to bring it before Him.
8. Consider journaling prayers of confession and thanksgiving for forgiveness as a way of deepening your awareness of God's mercy.

Closing Prompt

9. If God has forgiven our infinite debt, how should that shape the way we approach Him in prayer? How might it also shape the way we treat those who have wronged us?