

The Reconciling Community

Warm Up

- Describe something that happened this weekend that was unexpected.

Read

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Discuss

1. This week's soul training included allowing others to forgive *for* you. If you did that, discuss the ways this practice affected you. If you were bearing the burden of unforgiveness for someone, describe your experience of daily prayer and what changed within you.
2. The author gives two steps toward forgiving someone who has hurt you: "identity" and "perspective" (p. 123). If you focused on either of these steps, explore with your group how they helped and what challenges you encountered.
3. The false narrative stated in the chapter is, "Only when we forgive will we be forgiven and healed" (p. 110), but the true narrative is "Only when we know we have been forgiven will we find healing and become able to forgive" (p. 112). As a group, discuss your comfort or discomfort with these ideas. Reflect on the parts of these narratives that you agree/disagree with.
4. Review the two sections titled "Keeping Boundaries of Forgiveness" (pp. 119-20) and "The Forgiveness Ambush" (pp. 120-21). How are these sections helpful? What difficult questions about forgiveness still remain for you?
5. After reading the 2 Corinthians scripture listed above, how has your knowledge of God's forgiveness empowered you to be a minister of reconciliation to others?

Apply

- Consider the ministry of reconciliation concept from the last question. Who is one person you can be praying for this week?

Pray

- Pray that God would help each group member be an effective agent of the Kingdom of God this week.

All questions are taken from *The Good and Beautiful Community* by James Bryan Smith, pages 217-219. Refer to these pages for additional questions.

