

STUDY GUIDE: “CHRISTMAS IS... FORGIVENESS”

Discussion Starters

1. On a 1-10 scale (low to high) how easy do you find it to forgive?
2. On a 1-10 scale (low to high) how easy do you find asking for forgiveness?

Study:

3. Define “forgiveness” as you understand it.
4. Look up the following passages. Read them in context and note what they teach us about forgiveness.

Psalm 32

Psalm 51

Matthew 6:14-15

Matthew 9:5-7

Matthew 18:21-22

Matthew 26:27-28

Luke 7:47

1 John 1:9

Acts 2:38

Study Guide: “Forgiveness”, p. 2

5. To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASU, but the word you are trying to define is the Hebrew or Greek word translated by the NASU—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

Define the following words or terms.

--“forgive” (Matthew 6:14)—

--“forgiven” (Psalm 32:1)—

--“covered” (Psalm 32:1)—

--“does not impute” (Psalm 32:2)—

--“blot out” (Psalm 51:1)—

--“wash away” (Psalm 51:2)—

--“cleanse” (Psalm 51:2)—

6. Choose one of the words you looked up above, and write how understanding the meaning and background of that word better helped you understand this passage.

7. Explain the relationship between our being forgiven and forgiving others.

Taking It Home

8. How would you respond to someone who says “I can’t forgive him...”?

9. How would you respond to someone who says “I won’t forgive her...”?

10. How would you respond to someone who says “I don’t feel forgiven”?