

ONE | ANOTHER

Forgive One Another | Discussion Notes

Matt spoke about the command from Paul to 'forgive one another'. However, there are other options available for us when we don't want to forgive. We can:

- Take revenge
- Look for punishment
- Ghost
- Negotiate
- Cancel
- Let people off

Which of these do you think is the easiest to do? Which do you see most commonly?

Read Colossians 3:13 and Ephesians 4:32. These simple verses are a challenge from Paul for us to forgive. Matt described forgiveness as the cancellation of debt.

- Did you find this a helpful description of forgiveness?
- Why is it so hard for us to cancel someone else's debt?
- Matt explained how forgiveness costs us something. When we choose to forgive we incur a cost ourselves. Do you agree?

Matt explained that there is a bigger story to why we forgive one another. The story of the Bible starts with us in perfect relationship with God and with one another. However, because of our sin our relationships are broken. Throughout the Bible we see God working to 'reconcile' us, in other words to forgive us and bring us back into these relationships. The cross is the ultimate example of this. So, when we forgive one another we join in with this bigger story of reconciliation.

- How does seeing forgiveness as part of a bigger story change the way we think about it?
- How does Jesus forgiving us change how we think about forgiveness?
- Matt said our primary reason for forgiving is to bring freedom to others, do you agree?

Matt explained that forgiveness is a nuanced issues, so different situations require a different approach to forgiveness.

- What nuances can you think of that we should bear in mind?
- How can having community and the Spirit help us?

Each person in your Hub will be coming from different places with forgiveness - some might struggle with forgiving others, some might feel they haven't been forgiven and some might struggle to forgive themselves. Spend time praying together, being aware that you may need to give more time to dig into prayer on a deeper level.