

SMALL GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **July 6, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "The question of forgiveness."
Please read the sermon passage (Matthew 9:1-8) together out loud.

Small Group Questions (Matthew 9:1-8)

Sermon Outline:

AS CHRIST FORGIVES SINS, NOTE THE

1. **Faith Christ values (vv. 1-2)**
 - a. When Christ saw his faith, Christ forgave his sin.
 - b. Only Jesus Christ has the authority to forgive sin.
2. **Opposition Christ faces (v. 3)**
 - a. Christ's opponents erroneously assumed that he did not have the authority to forgive sins.
 - b. They rightly understood that only God can forgive, but wrongly assumed Christ was not God.
3. **The question Christ poses (vv. 4-5)**
 - a. Christ knew that the evil in their hearts (refusal to accept his divinity)
 - b. He challenged their assumptions (that he was not God) by first forgiving the man's sins, and then healing him before their very eyes.
4. **The authority Christ reveals (vv. 6-8)**
 - a. Only Christ has the authority to forgive sins.
 - b. Only Christ has the power to heal.

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Sometimes faith is a statement about what our wills trust. Sometimes faith can be seen by what we do. The men showed they believed that Jesus is the Christ by bringing their friend to him and cutting a hole in the roof so Jesus would see him. If someone were to examine your life, where would they see active proof of your faith in Jesus Christ?
2. Based on #2, above: When Christ experienced active opposition, he did not get angry, or stop ministering, or call a lawyer. Instead, he identified his opponents' assumptions (his opponents assumed that Jesus did not have the authority to forgive sins), and confronted that opposition with truth. How can you best engage the erroneous assumptions of opponents of the gospel?
3. Based on #3, above: What questions might be asked of people in your life right now who oppose the gospel? Do a 10-minute role play. Identify the specific assumption. Ask the question that challenges the assumption.
4. Based on #4, above: Our world wants to think that everyone should receive forgiveness and healing from God. How do you challenge that assumption in a way that may win your friends to faith in Jesus Christ?