

These questions are for the November 16, 2025, message, "Forgiven to Forgive," from the series entitled, "Seeking Him." Please read the sermon passage (Matthew 6:7-15) out loud.

Passage Outline

1. The source of forgiveness: "Our Father in heaven" (7-10).
 - a. This instruction to seek forgiveness is aimed at those a part of God's family.
 - b. 1 John 1:5-10. We need ongoing (daily) forgiveness for our accrued "debts."
 - c. The size of this forgiveness is described in Matt 18:23-35.
 - i. As a Father, God provides over-the-top forgiveness to His children.
 - ii. As His children, God requires us to forgive one another.
2. The display of God's kingdom: earthly forgiveness (11-15).
 - a. What forgiveness looks like: "When we strive against all thoughts of revenge (Rom 12:19); when we will not do our enemies mischief (1 Thess 5:15), but wish well to them (Luke 6:28), grieve at their calamities (Prov 24:17), pray for them (Matt 5:44-45), seek reconciliation with them (Rom 12:18), and show ourselves ready on all occasions to relieve them" (Ex 23:4). -Thomas Watson, 1692.
 - b. What forgiveness does not look like: We may become angry, we may not be able to rebuild trust, we may love and pray for even those who do not repent.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Only those who have received the Son have the right to be called the children of God (John 1:12). Tell us about when you received the Son of God.
2. Based on #1, above: God the Father stands at the ready to forgive and restore His repentant children. He is the only source for forgiveness, and our sins always separate us (create a distance) from Him. How does hiding your sins harm you? How does confessing them to God bring you life?
3. Based on #2, above: Forgiving those who wrong us is not optional, but required. It's a statement to this world that God has set His Kingdom, and His forgiveness sin our hearts. That we have a new source of ample grace and resources to forgive. You may or may not want to reveal the name, but when you think about forgiving another person, how can we help you?
4. Based on #2, above: How has God used the consequences of sinning in your life to prove His nearness and love?
5. How does the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matt 18:23-35) provide a warning? How does it give you fuel for worship?