

Growth Points

June 21, 2009

First Steps to Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35, Ephesians 4:32, Matthew 5:23-24

Devotional Seed:

What motivates you to take the first steps to forgiveness? What holds you back?

Deeper Roots:

1. How do you define forgiveness?
2. What is the distinction between forgiveness and reconciliation?
3. In what cases is it best to just forgive and in what cases do you think it is important to confront the offender?
4. Is there a connection between Lamech's boast in Genesis 4:24 and Jesus' instructions on forgiveness in Mat 18:22. What would be the significance?
5. In light of Matthew 18:35 and Matthew 6:14-15, is it possible to be a Christian and to be unwilling to forgive others?

Bearing Fruit:

1. Did you learn anything new about the nature of forgiveness?
2. Is it easier for you to forgive if you have a clearer understanding of forgiveness?
3. Are you currently struggling with unforgiveness? If you feel comfortable, share it with your group for support. Be sure to guard confidences and not gossip.
4. How can you take a first step towards forgiveness tonight?