



## Get Honest – Matthew 6:12

### *Forgive us our debts...*

When we confess our sins, we can experience:

\_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus

*"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and **will forgive us our sins** and purify us from all unrighteousness."*

1 John 1:8-9

*"And the prayer offered in faith will make them well... If they have sinned, they **will be forgiven.**"*

James 5:15

\_\_\_\_\_ with others

*"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you **may be healed.** The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

James 5:16

### *As we forgive our debtors.*

(Check out Jesus' parable in Matthew 18:23-35)

Giving forgiveness is \_\_\_\_\_ we've been forgiven.

Two points of clarification:

1. Forgive and forget is a myth... but we can forgive and \_\_\_\_\_ in a different way.

*"I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*

Hebrews 8:12

2. Forgiveness does not equal \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Getting honest gets us closer to God and others.**

#### **Getting Honest**

**"Confess your sins to each other & pray for each other..."**

**James 5:16**

1. How have you been spending time with God this week?
2. Who are you sharing your faith with? How is it going?
3. How have you used your gifts for God this week?
4. What hurts, habits, or hang-ups have arisen this week?
5. Are you standing strong against sin and temptation?
6. Have you made any decisions that dishonor Christ?
7. Ask me, " \_\_\_\_\_?"
8. Have you lied to me?

## ***Teach Us to Pray: Get Honest***

Questions based on Sermon from January 22, 2023  
***“Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...”***  
**Matthew 6:12**

***Note to Growth Group Guides:*** *Don’t feel the need to go through every question with your group. Select the questions you will ask before each meeting and use the rest for personal scripture study and reflection.*

### **Getting to Know Me**

1. If you’ve got a new Growth Group or newer folks in your group, be sure to take time to share some of your story, background with one another.
2. Share two things that are true and one thing is not true about you. Do not tell everyone what is true or not true but instead everyone else in the group should try to guess what’s not true.
3. Share the best and worst moment you had this week.

### **Digging Deeper**

4. What new insight or information have you learned about prayer during this series? How has this impacted your prayer life?
5. When you consider forgiveness, is it more difficult to *forgive yourself, forgive others, or to accept forgiveness.*
6. Read James 5:16 and 1 John 1:8-9. What happens when we confess our sins?

7. Read Mark 11:25, 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, Ephesians 4:32 and Colossians 3:12-14. What attitude(s) should we strive for when we forgive others? What changes when we forgive others?
8. When you think of all God has forgiven in your life, how does that impact your ability to forgive others?
9. Read Matthew 6:14-15. What does our forgiveness or unforgiveness of others reveal about whether or not we’ve truly accepted God’s forgiveness?

### **Where Do I Go from Here?**

Our God is a merciful God. Practicing forgiveness is our opportunity to participate in his mercy. Take steps this week to identify and forgive your debtors:

10. Prayerfully ask God to bring people to your mind and heart who are your debtors (those you may need to forgive).
11. Pray that God will give you the faith and mercy you need to actively forgive each person.
12. Thank God for releasing both them and you from the bondage of unforgiveness.

***Prayer – Close your session reading Psalm 51 – take time this week to meditate on the words and allow the Holy Spirit to renew your spirit.***  
Holy Father, thank you for your mercy towards us and forgiveness of our sins. Thank you that you keep no record of our sins. Restore to us the joy of our salvation and renew a right spirit within us. Help us to have the faith and mercy to forgive those who we feel have wronged us. May we reflect your love and compassion. Amen.

*“We exist to Glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.”*



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#### Healing with others

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