

Forgiveness

Ephesians 4:32, *"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

Theologian Frederick Buechner said, "At its core, forgiveness is an act of radical self-interest."¹ What do you think he means? Do you agree or disagree?

Group Conversation

1. Of the two stories that we read, which one gives you more hope?
2. If you were Joseph standing before your brothers, do you think your reaction would have been like Joseph?
3. Do you agree that forgiveness is more for the forgiver than the one who committed the evil?
4. Do you believe that we should leave justice and revenge in the hands of God?
5. Has there ever been a time in your life when someone did not forgive you? How did that make you feel?

Bible: *Ephesians 4:31-32, Isaiah 61:1-3, Psalm 103:8-11*

Personal Reflection

1. Has there been a situation in your life where something unfair happened to you and later you were able to see goodness that came of it?
2. Is there someone in your life that you have yet to forgive?
3. Is there someone in your life that you need to ask for forgiveness?
4. Do you feel like you are a person that could forgive as Joseph did or would you react in a spirit of revenge and bitterness?

Prayer

1. Thank God for the gift of forgiveness. Thank him for forgiving you.
2. If someone has wronged you, ask God to work in your heart to allow forgiveness. Place the heartache and wrong that was done to you in his hands.
3. If you have wronged someone, confess the sin to God and ask for forgiveness. Next, ask God to give you courage to ask for forgiveness directly from the person you have wronged.

¹ Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*. (New York: Harper & Row, 1973).