

4 Walks: Forgiven

Be sure you experience God's forgiveness, so you can have a close relationship with Him



A

Group Discussion Flow

connect with needs

- ▶ Find out how they are doing. Ask also how their **action to take** and **person to tell** went last week.
- ▶ Pray for wisdom from God for the session.
- ▶ Start by stating: *"Forgiveness gives a relationship a fresh start."*
Then, surface experiences:
"Let me tell you how I have experienced this."
"Tell us how you have experienced this."
- ▶ Transition to the Bible by saying, "This is also true in a relationship with God."

hear what God says

- ▶ Read (or tell) a Bible story/passage related to the topic.
Choices:
Luke 7:36–50 (story)
1 John 1:9–2:2
Ephesians 3:11–12
Two of these passages may be enough to cover in one session.
Commentary:
Luke 7:36–50 — This is a story about an interaction between Jesus, a sinful woman and a self-righteous religious leader. After Jesus saw the woman's sorrow over her sins, He forgave her of her sins. This should encourage people in the group who may feel that they have done so many bad things that God could never forgive them.
1 John 1:9–2:2 — This passage

clarifies that we should confess our sins to God. As we acknowledge the fact that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, we can experience the joy of being forgiven by God.
Ephesians 3:11–12 — Because of Christ (and His death for our sins), we can approach God and have a close relationship with Him.

- ▶ Discuss each passage using the following questions, or the alternate questions below:
What do you think this passage teaches us?
What can we learn about God or our response to God?
How do you think this passage relates to the statement we discussed earlier: "Forgiveness gives a relationship a fresh start"?

apply that to life

- ▶ State the main lesson: *"Be sure you experience God's forgiveness, so you can have a close relationship with Him."* Have them write the **lesson learned** on their Mini-Journal card.
- ▶ Discuss:
Why don't we always experience the forgiveness that God offers us?
What is one action you can take this week to experience that forgiveness?
- ▶ Have them write down their specific **action to take**. Then in groups of two or three, have them share what action they plan to take. Finally, have them pray for one another.

tell someone they know

- ▶ Ask whom they know who might be interested in hearing about what they are learning.
- ▶ Have them write the name after **person to tell**. Then, in groups of two or three, have them share whom they plan to tell. Finally, have them pray for one another.
- ▶ Encourage them to tell those people in the next few days.

notes and preparation checklist

pray

- Pray for wisdom.
- Pray for group members.

connect

- Think of a good personal example to share.
- Decide when and how to transition from **connect** to **hear**.

notes and preparation checklist

hear

Alternate questions to ask:

- Luke 7:36–50**
 1. *What are some differences between how the religious leader viewed the sinful woman and how Jesus viewed her?*
 2. *What can we learn from verses 40 – 47, where Jesus tells the debt cancellation illustration and applies it to the attitudes of the religious leader and the woman?*
 3. *What do you suppose was the impact on the woman when she heard that her sins had been forgiven?*

- 1 John 1:9–2:2**
 1. *Would you agree that all people sin? What has led you to your conclusion?*
 2. *What does this passage say is the solution to our sin problem? What must we do to take advantage of that solution?*
- Ephesians 3:11–12**
In what ways does our faith in Christ impact our relationship with God?

notes and preparation checklist

apply

- Decide when and how to transition from **hear** to **apply**.
- Be prepared to encourage people to a specific action step. Have an example in mind.
- Print [Forgiven Mini Journal](#).

notes and preparation checklist

tell

- Encourage people to do this despite their natural tendency not to.
- Look for group members who **tell** easily. They may be good at leading their own group soon.