



## **"Father Forgive Them"**

Ben Davis

**Luke 23:34** "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

### **Forgiveness is the great distinctive of the Christian Faith.**

The Christian God is a God of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 5:44** "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,..."

### **People typically struggle with three kinds of wounds.**

- Surface Scratch
- Puncture Wound
- Pierced Heart

**Colossians 3:13** "Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

### **3 Principles that can make us Great Forgivers like Jesus**

1. Rely on \_\_\_\_\_ for strength
2. Practice \_\_\_\_\_ toward the person who wronged you

**Proverbs 25:21** "If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink."

3. Realize that other people have \_\_\_\_\_

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

The last words of any individual are refreshing and important, because all the pretense and filters are gone. Anyone lying on their deathbed knows that time is of the essence and the words that come out are the ones that matter most to that person. The last words of Jesus on the cross are important to understand what matters most as we follow his example.

### **Read**

#### **The Cross**

Read Luke 22:63 & Luke 23:32-39. Ask God to open your heart to understand how much Christ endured for us, for our sins.

- Can you envision the mocking, the physical, mental and emotional pain Jesus went through? How does that make you feel?
- If a loved one had to endure such suffering or you had to endure this kind of suffering, how would you feel toward your perpetrators?

#### **Forgiveness**

Read Matthew 5:38-48

- What difference is there between us and the rest of the world if we cannot love or forgive our enemies?
- Reflect back on the story Tony Watson told about losing his daughter to a drunk driver
- As parents, brothers/sisters, or sons/daughters, could you forgive the loss of your loved one to a drunk driver? If so how and why, what would be required to reach that place of forgiveness?
- We have all been hurt at different points in our lives and the wounds vary in degree. However, what does God Call us to do?
- Ben talked about three types of wounds:
  - Surface Scratch
  - Puncture Wound
  - Pierced Heart
- What are the differences in these wounds? Have you experienced these varying wounds and how did you respond. What have you learned about forgiveness through your own experiences?

Read Romans 12:9-21

- Our love must be what? What are we called to hate?
- Who are we to bless? How are we to repay evil?

Read Colossians 3:12-14

- Who has forgiven us? What were the circumstances?
- Before we can forgive, we need to seek his forgiveness. What do you need to confess to God?
- Who do you need to forgive?
- Forgiveness is a process and not a onetime event. What can you do daily to nail your anger, bitterness and revenge on the cross?

### **Pray**

As we prepare ourselves each week leading into Easter by focusing on what Jesus said from the cross, ask God to guide you with wisdom and understanding to apply the message to your life. Ask God to give you strength to take the first steps in forgiving those you need to forgive.