



IT'S PERSONAL

Do you know...?

Session 4: Do You Know What I've Done?

October 13 - 19, 2019

Hang Out (30 Minutes)

1. You can use the book *The Complete Book of Questions* to continue getting to know each other. Have a group member pick a number between 301 and 400, look up the question for that number and encourage everyone to answer. Remember, everyone has the right to pass on any question.
2. What book or story has had the biggest impact on your life?
3. Choose a partner. Discover one thing in common between you that is not obvious (example: both men/women, both have hair, in the same life group) or something you've already discovered. Go deeper. Share what you discover with the group.

Watch The Video (24 Minutes)

Watch the video if necessary. If everyone viewed the sermon before the meeting, add this time to your discussion.

Discuss (30 Minutes)

It's okay if you don't get to every question. Leaders, guide the group to the questions you think will be most helpful.

1. Read John 8:2-11 [The earliest manuscripts of John's Gospel and other ancient witnesses do not have this story included. Scholars have speculated the reason, but there is no definitive reason why].
 - How might the woman just caught in adultery have felt?
 - What do you imagine life would be like for someone consistently living in guilt and/or shame?
 - Why do you think Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground?
 - Why do you think the accusers "slipped away"?
 - What did it take for Jesus to let the woman go in forgiveness?
 - What was the significance of Jesus' question in verse 10?
 - Jesus is described in the first chapter of John as being "full of grace and truth" (1:14). How does Jesus' response to the woman exemplify "grace and truth"?
 - How does Jesus' response to the woman replace her shame with hope?
 - If you could interview the woman the following day, what do you imagine she would tell you about how her life has changed because of Jesus' grace filled response to her?

2. In John 1:16, John testifies that "From his fullness, we have all received grace upon grace."
 - How would you describe "grace upon grace" to someone?
 - How is Jesus' response to the accusers an example of "grace upon grace"?
3. The acronym EGR means, "Extra Grace Required." In all of our lives, at different times, there are EGR people around us. Who in your life needs/has needed extra grace from you?
4. Who in your life do you need to extend "grace and truth" to? How might you do this?
5. When did you come to truly understand that Jesus knows everything you've done and does not condemn you, but instead loves, forgives, and sees you as valuable?

SUMMARY

You demonstrate forgiveness when you respond to someone in a way that helps that person to replace shame with hope. While being guilty is part of being human, living with shame is something we choose. The greatest trick shame plays on us is alienating us from the one thing that might help – love. Every person needs to know they are more than the sum of their worst moments. When Jesus ate with Zacchaeus, Jesus modeled forgiving love. Out of that same love, God has forgiven us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Although God knows our every sin, God chooses to forgive and forget them because of Jesus. When you demonstrate love in the face of someone's deepest vulnerability, you answer a number of unspoken questions, like:

- Do you think I will be okay?
- Do you think I still have value?
- Do you think I can be forgiven?

Learn and practice being a forgiving person.

Pray (5 Minutes)

On the 1/4 sheet of dissolvable paper provided, write down someone or something that you need to forgive or that you would like forgiven in your life. Fold the paper in half and hold on to it.

In a bucket of water, each person, one at a time, place his/her piece of paper in the water. Push the piece into the water so that it soaks completely. Use a stick or a spoon to stir the water until the paper completely dissolves. Once the paper dissolves completely, the next person come to the water and repeat the process.

Once everyone has dissolved their paper in the water, read the following together in unison:

Generous in love - God give grace!

Huge in mercy - wipe out my bad record.

Scrub away my guilt, soak out my sins in your laundry.

I know how bad I've been; my sins are staring me down.

You're the One I've violated, and you've seen it all, seen the full extent of my evil.

You have all the facts before you; whatever you decide about me is fair.

I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born.

What you're after is truth from the inside out.

Enter me, then, conceive a new, true life.

Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean, scrub me and I'll have a snow white life.

Tune me in to foot-tapping songs, set these once-broken bones to dancing.

Don't look too close for blemishes, give me a clean bill of health.

God make a fresh start in me, shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life. (The Message)