



Grace Group Guide

United Purpose: Together we will designate time and place to deepening our desire for God, caring for and urging each other to action!

United Actions: WL Groups...

-**Scripture:** Be in the Word together

-**Encouragement:** One another each other

-**Prayer:** With and for each other and the lost

-**Accountability:** Now What? Put it into action!

Icebreaker: Have you seen or heard of any incredible examples of forgiveness? If so, share one, and explain why that example stands out to you.

- **Transition:** The portion of the Lord's Prayer that we're focusing on today deals with forgiveness. When we see incredible examples of forgiveness in the world, this should remind us of/point us to the incredible forgiveness we have received through Jesus Christ.

-Discussion-

READ: Matthew 6:9-13

"Forgive us our debts"

- **What does this mean? What are our debts? Why do we need to pray this prayer?**
 - Answer: Our debt is our sin! This is explicit in Luke's account...
 - **Leader Note:** READ the Lord's prayer in Luke (Lk. 11:1-5).
 - Answer: We sin daily - in thought, word, and deed.
 - Answer: We cannot remove this debt ourselves. Our sin is against God, and we are reliant upon Him to show us grace and forgive us of our sins against Him.
- **How can God answer this prayer? How can he forgive us of sin and remain just?**
 - Answer: Through Jesus' sacrificial death on our behalf. He took our sin debt upon himself and paid the penalty that we deserved.
 - **Leader Note:** Some passages worth looking at: Rom. 5:6-8, 1 Cor. 15:3, 1 Pet. 2:24, Matt. 26:26-28.

"As we also have forgiven our debtors"

- **Why is this addition significant? What is Jesus suggesting?**
 - Answer: We are required to forgive those who sin against us. If we don't, we shouldn't expect God to forgive us when we come to him in need of forgiveness.
 - **Leader Note:** READ Matt. 6:14-15
- **Transition:** Several Psalms offer us a beautiful picture of the joys that come from praying a prayer like this one. We're going to take a closer look at just one: Psalm 32.

READ: Psalm 32

- **What does David experience after he confesses his sin to God? And how does this contrast with his experience before confessing?**
 - Possible answers:
 - 1) Forgiveness (vv. 1-2, 5)
 - 2) Bones wasting away, God's hand heavy upon him (vv. 3-4) vs. "surrounded" with shouts of deliverance (v. 7) and steadfast love (v. 10)
 - 3) Joy (v. 11)

-Reflection Questions-

- **Leader Note:** There are a lot of these... you do NOT need to go through all of them. Choose the ones that you think prompt the best discussion. You know your group!!
 - 1) What keeps you from confessing your sins to God and asking for forgiveness? Why can it be difficult for us to admit our sin?
 - Possible answers: pride, ignorance, spiritual laziness, denial, inconsistent prayer life
 - 2) Have you experienced what David writes about in Psalm 32? How does God's forgiveness change our lives?
 - 3) What keeps us from forgiving others? What sorts of things are most difficult for YOU personally to forgive others for?

-Transition to Application-

- 4) Are there sins that you have not confessed?
 - If so, don't wait any longer! Don't be like David... don't "keep silent" (v.3)! Acknowledge your sin to God (v. 5) with confidence that he will forgive the one who asks for it in faith! (See 1 Jn. 1:9).
- 5) Are there people that you have not forgiven? Have you withheld an attitude of forgiveness from anyone?
 - If so, don't wait any longer! Forgive those who have sinned against you, because you have been forgiven! Forgive as the Lord forgave you! (See Col. 3:13).

-Application-

- Pray the Lord's Prayer every day this week! Consider praying it aloud with your family or friends.
- Confess your sins to God.
- Forgive those who have sinned against you.
- Thank God for sending Jesus to pay the sin debt we owed so that we can be forgiven and reconciled with God.

-Pray-