

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS
Matthew 6:12
The Lord's Prayer — Week 7

ICEBREAKER: When's the last time you square-danced or line-danced? Rate your dancing ability on a scale of 1 to 10.

OVERVIEW: In the fifth petition of the Lord's Prayer Jesus address two of our deepest needs —the need to forgive and the need to be forgiven. The reality is that all of us have been hurt, and all of us have hurt others. In this discussion we will go deeper with how to receive God's forgiveness and how to forgive those who sin against us.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Describe a time when someone forgave you.
3. Have you ever struggled to forgive? Explain.
4. Why is it hard to forgive others?
5. Read Colossians 3:12-14 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What does it mean to be patient with people?
 - b. What does it mean to bear with one another?

- c. When should we forgive others?
 - d. What is the relationship between forgiveness and church unity?
6. Refer to Sunday's sermon and answer the following questions.
- a. Read Matthew 6:12. What is the fifth petition?
 - b. Why did Jesus refer to our sins as debts?
 - c. What is the difference between the unbeliever's prayer for forgiveness and the believer's prayer for forgiveness? Which is the focus of the Lord's Prayer?
 - d. As Christians who already have the guarantee of heaven, why do we need to pray for forgiveness when we sin? What are the consequences of sin in the believer's life?
 - e. Where are the four steps of praying for forgiveness? Hint: They all begin with the letter C.
 - f. What is the relationship between forgiveness and forgiving?
 - g. What does it mean to forgive someone?

The Last Word: "While you're holding a grudge, the other guy's out dancing!" —Buddy Hackett