

Westwood Life Groups - *A Place to Belong & A Place to Grow*

Life Group Leaders & Meeting Times (groups with a * meet at the Westwood building):

*11:45 - David Britton

*1:00-Bob Deason

1:30 - Terry Boyd & Tim Deason

6:00-Byron Chambers, Tim Jennings 6:00 - *Jimmy Priestley, John Hanson, Ken Beck,
Rudie Thomsen, *Mike Garrison, Brad Hillis, *Kelly Hillis

(PLEASE, CALL IN ATTENDANCE TO CHURCH OFFICE)

Beliefs that Matter, #15 ***Forgiving Others***

Introduction:

- The heart of the Christian message beats in rhythm to the theme of forgiveness.
- The Word of God does not tell the story of God's forgiveness without also bringing forgiven people to the challenge of forgiving one another.
 - 1 Pet. 1:15; 1 John 4:8; Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13.
 - Matthew 6:12; Matthew 6:14-15.

Steps to _____

STEP ONE: *You must get past your shock and denial about what has happened and bring it into the light of God's healing _____.*

- Proverbs 11:14a
- James 5:16a

STEP TWO: *You must give yourself permission to _____ whatever you have lost through what has been done to you.*

- Matthew 5:4

STEP THREE: *Reasonably early in the process, you must stop fanning the flames of your _____ and _____.*

- Proverbs 10:19

STEP FOUR: *Make a unilateral decision to _____*

- Matthew 5:43-45
- 1 Cor. 13:4-7.
- Rom. 12:17ff.

STEP FIVE: *_____ for whoever has done you wrong.*

- Matthew 5:43-45

Close...

- Remember: "*Forgiveness is a journey of many steps.*"

Westwood Church of Christ
Sunday Morning
November 12, 2017

Life Group Questions

Sunday November 12, 2017

1. Have you honestly considered the seriousness and call for personal accountability Jesus places on our forgiving others in Matthew 6:14-15?
2. Consider some of the things Satan plants in our minds when we've been hurt and are working through the pain and anger?
3. Why is it important to have a trusted friend or spiritual mentor with whom we can discuss our struggles, heartaches and battles with an unforgiving spirit?
4. In what ways do we tend to "fan the flames" of our anger and resentment toward those who have hurt us? Why are these so harmful to recovery? (Proverbs 10:19)
5. Jesus has taught us that we are to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44-45). What are the two misunderstandings about this teaching (we discussed them this morning) that once understood, will help us accomplish such?
6. How will praying for those who have hurt us help them and us?
7. Although we are not capable of "forgetting" those incidents in life that have hurt, scarred or in some cases maimed us emotionally and spiritually...we can refuse to "keep the books open" on it. What are some positive ways to "move past" the hurt? It's ok to repeat some we have already mentioned and discuss them further.