

## Freedom Class Week 6 – Power of Forgiveness

### Potential Opening - Lectio Divina

Before we head into discussion at tables, I'm inviting us to center in using a lectio divina exercise— which is a fancy Latin way of saying we're going to listen to the Lord's voice through the reading of scripture.

Go ahead and close your eyes, and I am going to read a scripture from Ephesians 1:7—4 different times—and I am going to guide you with some questions as we pause between the readings.

***Ephesians 1:7 – He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.***

- How have you experienced the Lord's kindness this week?
- How is Jesus making you more free?
- Where are you struggling to forgive yourself?
- Ask the Spirit to begin to search your heart, and as the night goes on, that He would bring to mind people/offense that you need to release.

### Discussion Questions

- As you review the reading from this week, were there any ideas/scriptures that were particularly powerful for you? Would you be willing to share about that with the group?
- Are there particular things that have caused you to personally struggle with forgiveness?
- On page 86 there is a list of things that Jesus endured in his humanity—betrayal, false accusation, rejection, abuse, and humiliation. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus so fully understands our wounds and also showed us how to overcome?
- Do you feel like it is harder for you to forgive yourself or others? Why do you think that is?
- Why is offense such a powerful weapon of the enemy? Pages 88-89 talk about keys that will help us to live and offend life. Do one of these keys resonate with you more than others?
- What do you think might happen in our community if people from our church actually starting walking out the forgiveness that they have personally receive from Jesus? (See p.90 – praying, blessing, and doing good to those who have offended you.) Have you ever witnessed or been a part of a forgiveness in action story?
- Though we may have asked for forgiveness for past sins, the enemy is often relentless in his accusation. Are there particular things that have helped you experience freedom from the past?
- What in this lesson increases hope for you? Is there anything you find yourself resistant to?
- Where have your ideas about forgiveness been challenged in this teaching?

### Optional Response Time

- Center in by playing a worship song.
- Time of Forgiveness
  - Using the envelopes, read “Let Freedom Ring” and then follow the instructions on the inside of the envelope using the prayer of forgiveness and dissolvable paper.
  - When you are done with writing things on the paper, place them in the water, swirl it around and watch them disappear.

### Blessings:

- We declare tonight that your sins and those who have sinned against you are forgiven and under the blood of Jesus. And we bless you to walk in the freedom that Christ bought for you.
- We bless you tonight as forgiven and free in Jesus.