

LifeGroup Study

Holy Drip: The Forgiveness Bear

SERMON SUMMARY

Colossians 3:13 calls us to "bear with one another and forgive one another... as Christ forgave you," revealing that true forgiveness is not optional for Christians, it's the natural overflow of grasping how radically and completely Jesus has forgiven us. When we clothe ourselves with Christ's compassion and patience, we create communities where people don't have to be perfect to belong, but instead are transformed together into the likeness of Jesus.

KEY VERSE

Colossians 3:13

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

SERMON NOTES

<https://bible.com/events/49525375>

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What insights, comments, or questions do you have about this week's sermon?
2. Think of a time you were forgiven when you didn't deserve it. How did receiving that forgiveness feel? Does remembering that moment make forgiving others easier?
3. Forgiveness is not an emotion; it's a decision. Where in your life right now do you need to make the decision to forgive even though the feelings haven't caught up yet?
4. Without naming them, think of someone in your life right now that is genuinely hard to "bear with". What specific behaviors or quirks make it difficult?
5. In what ways did Jesus model "bearing with" His disciples' repeated failures, doubts, and betrayal? Which example most encourages you right now to be like Jesus?
6. Bearing with others is "the slow, patient work of love." What relationship in your life needs more "slow, patient work" right now?
7. Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. Have you ever experienced this?
8. Forgiveness doesn't mean trust is automatically restored. Share a situation where you've forgiven someone but still need healthy boundaries. What does that look like for you?
9. If bearing with and forgiving one another is one of the primary ways we "put on Christ" and display Him to the world, how might our relationships become one of the most powerful evangelistic tools we have?
10. Who is one person this week you could take a practical step toward "bearing with" or forgiving (a text, a prayer, a conversation, letting something go)?

CLOSING PRAYER

Everyone stands or sits and holds both hands out in front (palms up, like they are receiving a box).

Leader: "Jesus, we open our hands and hearts to You."

Group quietly says together: "I let go. You forgave me. I forgive."

1-2 minutes of silence while people picture the person/situation and drop their hands to their sides when ready.

Leader: "Thank You, Jesus, for Your forgiveness and peace. Amen."