

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What was your most valued relationship growing up? Describe it.
2. Do you have a favorite memory with your family? What was it?

DIGGING DEEPER

As we look at part 4 of our Not It series we're talking about forgiveness. It's a deep topic that requires humility and honesty but is crucial as followers of Christ. Look at the verses and let yourself be challenged by the questions so you can grow in grace/mercy!

1. What could be signs of unforgiveness both from the sermon and your own understanding? What are the benefits of forgiveness?
2. The Greek word for forgiveness means "to let go" or "to abandon." The opposite would be to hold tightly or grasp. Explain this definition in greater detail?
3. The key biblical text for our discussion is Matthew 18:21-35. It starts out with Peter asking Jesus about forgiving up to 7 times (vs. 21). How does that number seem to you? For Hebrews do you happen to remember their number for forgiving?
4. Jesus' response to Peter is "not seven times, but seventy-seven times" (or 70x7). How does that number strike you? What is Jesus saying?
5. Read Matthew 18:28-31. How much does this guy owe? Why did the first servant react with such gracelessness? What is Jesus getting at? Read Matthew 18:32-34. Do you think the master is justified for his response to the first servant? Read Matthew 18:35. Is being forgiven by God denied if we refuse to forgive others or is there a better way to explain this verse?
6. What's the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation? What is required for real reconciliation?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. How has this message helped you understand forgiveness? How well do you do with forgiveness?
2. Are there any relationships for you that could benefit from forgiveness? What can you do this week to take a step in that direction?
3. If there are relationships where you don't feel you can forgive, would you be willing to make it a point of prayer and at least work in that direction?