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PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

Luke 15:11-32

“A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land”
Luke 15:11-13a

To Forgive Myself I Need To . . .

1. Recognize _____

“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger!’”
Luke 15:17

2. Realize _____

“I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.””
Luke 15:18-19

HOW CAN I FORGIVE MYSELF?

3. Return _____ and _____

“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’ But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.”
Luke 15:20-24

Memory Verse

“So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.”
Romans 8:1

MY NEXT STEP IS TO . . .

- Memorize Romans 8:1
- Forgive myself just as God has forgiven me
- Get the most out of today’s teaching by participating in a Life Group this week
- Invite a friend, family member or co-worker to join me for Mother’s Day at ERBC next weekend



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Discussion Questions - Week #3

LIFEGROUPS

QUICK REVIEW

Thinking back to the sermon this weekend "Forgiveness: Forgiving Myself," in a sentence or two summarize the main point.

Looking at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Is there any practical step you plan on taking this week in response to the message?

GETTING STARTED

- If you had a time machine and could go back and change one thing about your past, what would it be?

- Do you find it easier to forgive yourself or others

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In the message this weekend, Pastor Rick shared that to forgive ourselves, we first must recognize our helplessness. In the following passage, Luke 18:9-14, we read about a man who understood this point well. In what way does the tax collector evidence his recognition of helplessness?

Do you think that we should always approach God in the manner of this tax collector?

Why or why not?

How can we tell the difference between Godly conviction over our sin, as the tax collector exhibited and the devil's condemnation?

What can we do to ensure we don't approach God like the Pharisee in Jesus' story?

2. David wrote Psalm 51 in response to being confronted about his adultery with Bathsheba and subsequent murder of her husband. This Psalm can serve as an excellent guide for helping us face our past and move on. What stands out to you most in this passage?

What does this passage teach us about how David felt about his failures, and how God related to him?

What is most helpful to you from this Psalm in dealing with your past?

3. The forgiveness and grace we receive from God for our sins is an amazing thing. Yet, as we heard in this weekend's teaching, it can be a battle to embrace it and let go of the burden of past sins. Why do you think we sometimes insist on believing something about ourselves that God does not?

Read Colossians 2:13-14 and 1 John 1:8-10. How might the truth contained in these passages help us to accept the reality of our forgiveness?

What are we saying about the truth contained in these passages if we refuse to accept that we've been totally forgiven?

TAKING IT HOME

☞ Which of the three steps that Pastor Rick mentioned this weekend might you need to focus on this week? What's one practical step can you take to do so?

PRAYER REQUESTS