

Gathering

FORGIVENESS

How many times have you been wronged or hurt? If you have spent any time living, working or loving people then hurts are part of the package. Forgiveness is an important part of life. Forgiveness is not pretending an injury doesn't really matter. The truth is that an offense does matter and avoiding it doesn't help. We don't need avoidance. We need reconciliation.

Some think that forgiveness means ceasing to hurt. There is the belief that if we continue to hurt we must have failed to forgive completely. Hurting is not wrong. God will walk with you through the hurt if you allow Him.

Many assume that forgiveness means pretending that relationship is just the same as it was before the offense. The relationship will not be the same again. With the grace of God it can be better. Let us cry out to God as the psalmist did in Psalm 130:1-4 (The Message) *"Help, God—the bottom has fallen out of my life! Master, hear my cry for help! Listen hard! Open your ears! Listen to my cries for mercy. If you, God, kept records on wrongdoings, who would stand a chance? As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit, and that's why you're worshiped."*

After sharing Scripture use at least three of the questions below with your group:


- Do your sins or your troubles make you feel hopeless?
- What would your life look like without God?
- Is there unforgiveness in your heart?
- What do you pray God will do in the area of forgiveness in your life?

After the sharing, you may wish to take time to discuss how, as a group, accountability can be held to encourage a deeper exploration of scripture or even offer a fun challenge of memorizing a new verse per week.

Be sure to hand out the Monthly Scripture Card and Take Home Sheet.

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.


Psalm 130:1-4



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Do your **sins** or your troubles
make you feel **hopeless**?



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What would your **life**
look like without **God**?



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Is there **unforgiveness**
in your **heart**?



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What do you pray **God** will
do in the area of **forgiveness**
in your **life**?

**HELP, GOD—THE BOTTOM
HAS FALLEN OUT OF MY LIFE!
MASTER, HEAR MY CRY FOR
HELP! LISTEN HARD! OPEN
YOUR EARS! LISTEN TO MY
CRIES FOR MERCY.**

**IF YOU, GOD, KEPT RECORDS
ON WRONGDOINGS,
WHO WOULD STAND A
CHANCE? AS IT TURNS OUT,
FORGIVENESS IS YOUR
HABIT, AND THAT'S WHY
YOU'RE WORSHIPED.**

Psalms 130:1-4 (The Message)

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Psalms 130:1-4 (The Message)

Search your heart (*or mind*). Do you need to forgive? Do you need to seek forgiveness from God or others? Express your inner thoughts and feelings through drawing or writing throughout this week.

