

# Serial Killer - Life Sentence (Forgiveness)

Weekend Discussion Questions

February 12-13, 2011

## Community:

1. Where have you experienced forgiveness the most and what was the occasion?
2. Would you consider yourself the forgiving type or do you tend to hold a grudge?
3. Which message in the Serial Killer series hit home the hardest? Pride? Greed? Lust?

## Core:

1. What has God done to demonstrate His willingness to forgive us...no matter what?
2. Knowing that God has demonstrated His forgiveness completely through Jesus, what impact should that have on how we live the rest of our lives?
3. Is forgiveness the same as forgetting? How are they different?
4. Jim explained that *forgiveness* means: *Deciding* to cancel the legitimate debt owed. What does that look like in day-to-day life? Can you give an example(s) of this kind of forgiveness?
5. Jim also said that *grace* (by definition) is the free gift of forgiveness that God gives to anyone who (by faith) depends on what Jesus did on the cross to do what they could never do or pay for themselves. How should living out this kind of grace affect the way we deal with others?
6. Why is it so hard to forgive the people who have wronged us?
7. Read Romans 5:20 and discuss the greatness of God's grace over our sin.
8. Do you ever struggle with the understanding that we can never "out-sin" God's grace?
9. Read Matthew 18:21-22. What do you make of Peter's initial question and answer?
10. What do you make of Jesus' answer of "seventy seven" times?
11. Jesus, in essence, says we should never stop forgiving. Have you ever been in a situation where someone has wronged you over, and over, and over again? How difficult was it to forgive the 1<sup>st</sup>...the 10<sup>th</sup> time...the 37<sup>th</sup> time? How can Jesus ask us to do this?
12. Read Matthew 18:23-34. Where do you see Jesus in this parable or story? Where do you see yourself in this story? Where do you need to see yourself in this story of forgiveness?

## Challenge:

1. Memorize Ephesians 2:8-9. "*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast.*"
2. Make the call. Send the email or letter. Do whatever it takes to contact the person(s) you need to forgive and have that conversation—remembering that it will not condone or excuse their behavior, but WILL set you free from a prison of anger, hatred and unforgiveness.



**flatirons**  
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Weekend Services | Sat 5:00 & 6:30pm | Sun 9:00, 10:30 & 11:55am, 6:30pm