

ON THE ROAD TO REAL



GIVE UP!

**REAL**ATIONSHIPS



**C1-Community** ■ **C2-Congregation** ■ **C3-Caring**

**The Point:** *REALating means we reconcile by releasing our agenda*

**Colossians 3:13**

### Discussion Generators

- . **Read Colossians 3:13.** What are two things that stood out to you from this week’s Point? (they can be silly, serious, stupid, or spiritual)
- . For you, which do you think is harder to do, say “I’m sorry” or “I forgive you”? Why?
- . Is it ever easier or more difficult to say I’m sorry or I forgive you ? When is it harder or easier? When it comes down to it, bottom line, what is the only thing that stands between a person saying either one of these two? (Ask for clarity if needed.)
- . **Read Ephesians 4:2-3.**
  - √Paul says to always be humble and gentle. How hard is that?
  - √If we just did those two things, how different do you think this whole topic would be in our lives? Why?
  - √As Paul continues on he says to patiently put up with each other and love each other. What then does Paul say we are to do?
  - √What do you think this passage has to do with asking for and giving forgiveness?
- . With that in mind, let’s **read II Corinthians 2:10-11.**
  - √What do you think Paul is implying when he says “Anyone you forgive, I also forgive”?
  - √Have you ever heard someone say, “Well, you may forgive them and you’re the one that they hurt, but I just can’t forgive them”? Based on what Paul says in verse 10, how should we respond?
  - √What does Paul say in verse 11 that is a warning as to why we need to follow through on this?
  - √Do you think that could apply to the Ephesians passage as well?

## Discussion Generators

### . Read **Matthew 18:23-35**.

- √Do you think Jesus meant to keep track of how many times you forgive someone and then stop forgiving them once you reach that number? Why or why not?
- √Can you relate to the story that Jesus shares here of the king and his servant? How, if so?
- √How often do you think we do the same thing to others as the first servant did to his fellow servant?
- √What does Jesus say about how God feels about that?

### . Most of these passages speak directly to forgiving others.

- √IN spite of that, do you think that asking for forgiveness is an important part of these passages? Why or why not?
- √Do you think that admitting we are wrong and asking forgiveness is foundational to Christianity? How, if so?
- √What are some of the consequences of not asking forgiveness or not forgiving?

### . Let's reread **Colossians 3:13**. Do you think there is significance to both seeking and giving forgiveness by what Paul says when he writes, "Forgive as the Lord forgave you"?

## Building REALationships

This week it is time to find out more info about one another! Some of you are excited and others maybe not so much!

I am going to give you a piece of paper on which you will write down a response to five statements. Once you have written those down, place the piece of paper inside the balloon that I gave you, blow up the balloon (& tie it for the wisenheimers), and then put your balloon in the middle of the room. Once everyone is done, we will mix up the balloons and then pop them one at a time. Each time we pop a balloon we will see if we can guess who wrote that particular one.

Here are the statements:

1. My favorite summer activity as a kid was...
2. My dream job would be...
3. If I could do anything at all it would be...
4. Favorite point series this year at MC3: Adonai, S\*X, Dwell, Strong, or REALationships or what's a point series...
5. If I could learn more about any given book of the Bible or a specific Bible related topic it would be ...

## Bible References

### **Colossians 3:13 (NIV)**

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

### **Ephesians 4:2-3 (CEV)**

Always be humble and gentle. Patiently put up with each other and love each other. Try your best to let God's Spirit keep your hearts united. Do this by living at peace.

### **II Corinthians 2:10-11 (NIV)**

Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

### **Matthew 18:23-35 (NLT)**

Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but seventy times seven! "Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt. "But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt. "But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment. "His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it,' he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn't wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full. "When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn't you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt. "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

