

# Small Group Study

## Our Vision

To know God and enjoy Him forever.

## Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people

## Discussion

### Building Kingdom People: Forgiving Others

*by Megan Wiest.*

## Scripture

Have a volunteer read the following scripture:  
Ephesians 4:30-32

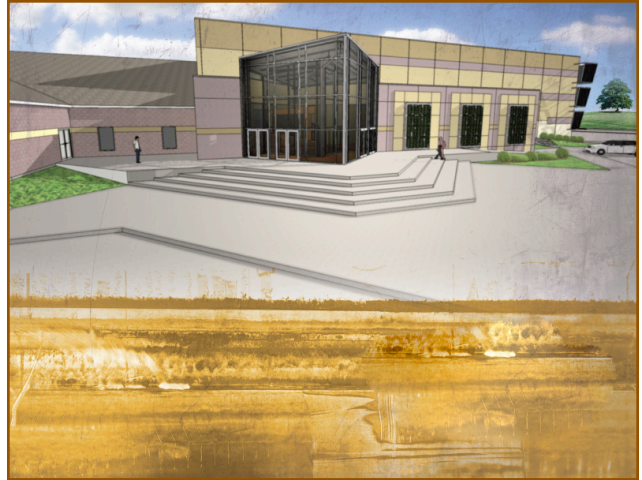
## Introduction

As imperfect people living in an imperfect world, we eventually confront in nearly every relationship the need to extend and receive forgiveness. But when the wounds run deep, forgiveness does not come easy. Whether the cause of the wound was as minor as a verbal insult or as major as a betrayal, we can feel justified in holding onto feeling bitter towards the ones who have wounded us. And often the offender is a person close to us: spouse, parent, sibling, friend, church member, co-worker, or neighbor. In most cases we assume that this person meant to hurt us through their fault-finding, nagging, promise-breaking, reputation damaging, and insulting actions. Feeling bitter and angry and refusing to forgive are natural responses to those kinds of transgressions. But they destroy relationships and boomerang, inflicting hurt on those who hold such attitudes.

No one deserves God's forgiveness yet we can have it free through Christ because He paid the price for our sin with His life. Apologies are pale in comparison to the freedom and deep peace God grants you when you extend forgiveness.

## Questions

1. What does it mean to forgive someone?
2. Do you think forgiveness is a choice or an emotional state?
3. Is there a difference between forgiving and forgetting?



## Ice Breaker

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

1. Who was your favorite childhood friend? What did you like to do together?
2. Share a favorite childhood memory.
3. What were 3 things you liked to do for fun when you were a child?

4. Can we forgive even if the other person does not accept forgiveness?
5. What part of forgiveness do you struggle with the most?
6. Read Ephesians 4:30. Do you think forgiveness is a way of life?
7. What are the benefits of forgiving someone? To you? To them?
8. What do you give up by forgiving?
9. Who would like to share about someone you have forgiven?
10. Who do you need to forgive? Yourself? *(This is a great opportunity to begin ministry.)*