

FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

LIFE NOTES



This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Community Group or Family. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. The goal of your time is not to answer every question, but to facilitate meaningful and life giving conversation. Some questions might connect with your group more than others, so please focus on the ones pertinent to your group.

PLAN A: WEEK 6

SYNOPSIS OF SERIES

In this series, we are focusing on our core value, Prayer is Plan A. Over the next few weeks we are going to be looking at the Lord's Prayer. Jesus teaches us how to pray and how not to pray. He gives us the key ingredients that we can use when coming before God.

GETTING STARTED

Following the tragic Amish school shooting of 10 young schoolgirls in a one-room Amish school in October 2006, reporters from throughout the world invaded Lancaster County, PA to cover the story. However, in the hours and days following the shooting a different, an unexpected story developed. In the midst of their grief over this shocking loss, the Amish community didn't cast blame, they didn't point fingers, they didn't hold a press conference with attorneys at their sides.

Instead, they reached out with grace and compassion toward the killer's family.

The afternoon of the shooting an Amish grandfather of one of the girls who was killed expressed forgiveness toward the killer, Charles Roberts. That same day Amish neighbors visited the Roberts family to comfort them in their sorrow and pain.

What is a radical example of forgiveness that you have heard or experienced in your own life?

DIGGING DEEPER

Matthew 6:9-15 (NIV)

"This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.' For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

How would you define 'forgiveness'?

Why do you think Jesus emphasized the forgiveness aspect in verses 14 and 15?

Why is us forgiving one another so important to God?

During Jesus' teaching on the Lord's Prayer, He calls us to a daily asking of forgiveness from God, and daily giving of forgiveness to others. Why does Jesus call us to daily repentance and forgiveness?

How does confession fuel forgiveness?

MOVING FORWARD

Read Matthew 18:23-35

What are some of the things Jesus is communicating in this parable?

React to this statement. "We judge others by their actions, but we judge ourselves only by our intentions." Agree or disagree?

How does forgiving others allow the gospel to spread?

PRAY TOGETHER

Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind anyone that you might need to forgive.