Forgive One Another

Sunday, March 8, 2015   Col 3:12–14; Eph 4:31–5:2

Forgiving is Hard   Luke 17:3–5
- Not "natural"
- Always counter-cultural
- Scale proposed – Bearing with ➔ Forgiving
- The deeper the hurt, the harder to forgive
- Forgiving can feel "wrong" – feels like letting evil win
- This is a topic that can stir buried pain

Forgiving is Therapeutic
- Resentment is Soul Poison
- Forgiving important for freedom
- Forgiving important for peace
- This characteristic of forgiveness not emphasized in Bible

Forgiving and Community   Colossians 3:12–14
Picture …
- The kind of community described here
  - God's Dream - Loving God and People
- A community where resentment exists …
  - Family, church, neighborhood, workplace, nations …

Community …
- Forgiveness needed for Community to thrive
- Community needed when Forgiveness is hard

Forgiving is Like God   Ephesians 4:31–5:2
- The Logic of Forgiving
- This emphasized most in Bible
- Why Forgive? Because God has forgiven us
- We become like the one we worship

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Kicking off your Time Together

Ice Breaker
Go around the circle, introduce yourselves, and answer this question: Is it easy or hard for you to forgive others?

Opening Prayer
Have one or two open in prayer asking God to be present and to direct your time.

What Did you Bring?
Did you bring anything to share to encourage the group? (consider 1 Cor 14:26 as the pattern for this part of the meeting)

Read Some Passages about Forgiving Others
Have several people read these passages:

Luke 17:3–5; Col 3:12–14; Eph 4:31–5:2

Discuss a few of these questions:
What stands out as you hear these passages about forgiveness?

Describe the kind or relationships with one another that are pictured here.

What is hardest about forgiving others for you?

Have you had any experiences where forgiving others proved significant? How?

How could we help each other to forgive?

Pray for Each Other
In light of all that has been shared, pray for each other.
You may want to share specific requests.