



SUMMERFEST

Week 4

BREAKING THE ICE

- What is one cool thing you learned over the past week? It could be anything!
- What was one way that you were able to depend on God in the last week?

MAIN CONTENT

Start again by reading the Lord's Prayer aloud together (Matthew 6:9-13).

This week Pastor Kevin taught on the challenging reality of our need for forgiveness, along with the need for forgiveness for those around us. "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23" As we dive into this conversation, it spurs us into action. Because true forgiveness takes not only an understanding of forgiveness, but a willingness to put into practice what we have received from God personally.

1. Pastor Kevin talked about forgiveness feeling like a "get out of jail free" card. Have you ever felt this way? How is this lacking in the full picture of forgiveness?
2. Why is making the CHOICE of forgiveness so challenging? What are we looking for when feel the need to "get even"?

Pastor Kevin shared that God “makes us right” with him. He welcomes us in as family, sons and daughters, but it wasn’t free. We see this in Romans 3:24 which says, “For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.”

3. What emotions do you feel when you think about the sacrifice that Jesus made for you and me?

4. How can this transform the way that we forgive those around us... even if they don’t deserve it?

As Pastor Kevin wrapped up his message he stated, “forgiveness is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was you.”

5. What parts of your life might our group be able to support you in practicing true forgiveness?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank you for forgiving us. Thank you for the way that you love us, and welcome us into your family. Help us reflect that to one another, and to the world around us. We love you. Amen.

ACTION STEP

Have a 4x6 card or a sticky note for every group member. The leader should begin by praying for their group, asking God to lead them as they put into practice what they have shared. Then allow 3-5 minutes for people to reflect on what they might be carrying, write it onto their notecard, and then pray for your group members to release that burden that they wrote down by God’s grace. Lastly, offer your group members to throw their notecard away.