

WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

Love Forgives

1 John 1:5-10

Message Reflection Guide

Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right[Ⓜ] spirit within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalms 51:8-12

CONVERSATION STARTER

Describe a time when you've been forgiven by someone when you *really* didn't feel like you deserved it.

GETTING INTO THE SCRIPTURES

Read 1 John 1:5-10

Brandon said, "**God's love is unconditional; so is His forgiveness.**" How do you know that God loves you? How do you know that God has forgiven you?

You are forgiven. What is the significance of the word "forgiven" being in past tense? Read verse 9 again. How is it possible that are you forgiven?

Act like you're forgiven! Share a time when it was difficult for you to *feel* forgiven. How does the view of the cross help in these times? In Psalm 51, describe how David felt by the end of his confession.

Forgive like you're forgiven. Read Matthew 18:21-35. Explain the weight of forgiveness you have feel from God. Describe a time when it was difficult to forgive someone in your life.

MAKING IT REAL

Jesus says the greatest commandment is to love God. The second greatest is to love others. This goes with forgiveness, too. God has forgiven you. Can you forgive others? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you comprehend the unconditional forgiveness that God offers. Is there someone you've been denying forgiveness in your life? Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the power to show gospel-centered forgiveness towards that person.