

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

TRIAL RUN
Message Series

TRY FORGIVENESS
May 3 RVCC Graham

Bottom Line: If hurt people hurt people, forgiven people forgive people.

1. Have you ever held onto something longer than you should have-like a grudge, frustration, or even a small offense? What made it hard to let go?

Read Luke 7:36-39

2. What stands out to you about the contrast between the Pharisee and the woman in this scene?

Read Luke 7:40-43

3. Jesus tells a story about two people being forgiven different debts. What is the main point Jesus is making?
4. Why do you think experiencing forgiveness changes how we love and treat others?

Read Luke 7:44-50

5. Jesus highlights how differently Simon and the woman respond to him. What does this reveal about their hearts?
6. The message emphasized that we often define ourselves as "good people." Why can that mindset make it harder to experience or extend forgiveness?
7. One of the tensions discussed was that forgiveness feels unfair. Why do you think grace is so difficult for us to accept and extend?
8. Think about your own life-are you more likely to hold onto hurt or extend forgiveness? What makes that challenging?

Application

Take a moment to reflect: *Who is someone you are holding onto hurt, bitterness, or resentment toward right now?*

Then consider your next step: If you can't extend forgiveness directly (distance, safety, or circumstance), begin by releasing it in your heart-consider writing a letter you may or may not send.

If you can extend forgiveness, take a step this week-send a message, start a conversation, or move toward reconciliation.

Close by praying and asking God: *"What step are you inviting me to take toward forgiveness?"*



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

TRIAL RUN
Message Series

TRY FORGIVENESS
May 3 RVCC Parkland

Bottom Line: Forgiveness frees us from being ruled by hate.

1. Do you think it's harder to forgive someone or to admit when you need forgiveness? Why?

Read Matthew 5:21–22

2. Jesus connects anger and hate to something much deeper. What do you think he is trying to show about the seriousness of what happens in our hearts?

Read Romans 5:6–8

3. What stands out to you about the way Jesus chose to forgive us?
4. How does understanding how you've been forgiven shape your willingness to forgive others?
5. The message described how our culture often fuels anger, outrage, and division. Where do you see that most clearly today?
6. One challenge mentioned was our attachment to fairness and our rights. Why does forgiveness require letting go of those things?
7. Another challenge is that forgiveness doesn't always feel realistic. What makes forgiveness feel difficult or even impossible in certain situations?
8. The message said forgiveness is not just about the other person, but about freeing yourself. How have you seen bitterness or unforgiveness affect someone's life?

Application

This week, identify one person you need to forgive.

Start with prayer: Ask God to help you see them differently. Ask for the strength to release your desire for retaliation. Ask for wisdom on your next step.

Then take one step this week: Release it privately to God. Or begin a conversation if appropriate. Or simply choose to stop replaying the hurt.

Close by praying together, asking God to help become people who are shaped more by forgiveness than by hurt.

