

What the Bible says about getting right with each other and with God

This Bible study helps you to examine what the Bible teaches about getting right with each other and with God. You can do this study on your own or with a small group of people. Take time to consider how it applies to you and your life and ministry.

Answer the following questions. You will find the answers in the Scriptures mentioned. To understand more, read the verses around these Scriptures.

1. What is the core message of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
(*Luke 24:47; Acts 26:18*)

2. What do we need to do in order to receive forgiveness?
(*Psalm 32:1-5; 1 John 1:8-10*)

3. What are the benefits of being forgiven?
(*Romans 6:23; James 5:16; Acts 3v19-20*)

4. Why should we forgive someone who has wronged us?
(*Matthew 6:12, 14-15, 18:23-35; Hebrews 12:14-15*)

5. What should your attitude be towards a friend/husband /wife who continually sins against you?
(*Matthew 18:21-22; Colossians 3:13*)

6. What is repentance?
(*Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20; Isaiah 55:7*)

7. How can a person change their behaviour?
(*Romans 7:25 (18-25); Hebrews 12:24*)

Discussion Question for small group:

8. How would you ask your friend/husband/wife to forgive you for doing something that hurt or disappointed them?

Personal Reflection for yourself in silence:

9. How would you ask God to forgive you for something you have done that hurt or disappointed Him?

ANSWERS TO: What the Bible says about getting right with each other and with God

1. What is the core message of the gospel of Jesus Christ? (Luke 24:47; Acts 26:18)

There is forgiveness of sins for those who repent. Repentance draws us closer to God, brings us into God's family (from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light).

2. What do we need to do in order to receive forgiveness? (Psalm 32:1-5; 1 John 1:8-10)

Be honest! Confess to God the sins/wrong that I have done and ask Him to forgive me. Consider what has been done to self (body, soul, spirit), to others, to God, and the multiplicities of sin added to the sin (eg lies, deception etc).

3. What are the benefits of being forgiven? (Romans 6:23; James 5:16; Acts 3v19-20)

Eternal life. Healing. God answering our prayers. Times of refreshing.

4. Why should we forgive someone who has wronged us? (Matthew 6:12, 14-15, 18:23-35; Hebrews 12:14-15)

God will forgive us (ONLY) if we forgive others. We can be tormented if we do not forgive. A root of bitterness in us will defile others. Forgiveness is costly.

5. What should your attitude be towards a friend/husband /wife who continually sins against you? (Matthew 18:21-22; Colossians 3:13)

Continually forgiving, bearing with others' faults. Gently, humbly help others.

6. What is repentance? (Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20; Isaiah 55:7)

It is a decision to turn AWAY from sin/self and turn TO God. Repentance is a decision to change. It is a choice open to everyone.

7. How can a person change their behaviour? (Romans 7:25 (18-25); Hebrews 12:24)

Only Jesus Christ can change us. He only helps us if we ask Him to.

8. How would you ask your friend/husband/wife to forgive you for doing something that hurt or disappointed them?

Honestly and humbly acknowledging the wrong we have done and the hurt we have caused. Not to justify actions. Sincerely asking the other person to forgive us. Making restitution – being open to mend the relationship if they are willing.

9. How would you ask God to forgive you for something you have done that hurt or disappointed Him?

As with 8 above, Honestly and humbly acknowledging the wrong we have done and the hurt we have caused to God and others. Sincerely asking God to forgive us. God knows our hearts.