Lessons IN OVERCOMING
CONVERSATIONS WITH Corrie ten Boom
SMALL GROUP STUDY

Session 5: Forgiveness: Life Begins Again

The end of suffering doesn't end the battle; anger, bitterness, and hatred can imprison us even more than persecution, if we let them take root. Corrie and Betsie's eleven months of torment could have erased a lifetime of God's goodness, yet after release from Ravensbrück, Corrie vowed to share His faithfulness. Through her testimony, generations have been challenged to recognize God's sovereignty over the hard circumstances in their own lives. Hardship is certain, but our choice is clear: Live as victims, or stand strong with God's Spirit. We can overcome evil now—just as Corrie and Betsie did then—through the truth and love of Jesus Christ!

Scriptures

Read through the verses below, then choose one verse for your group to memorize this week.

Romans 5:5 (NIV®)
And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Luke 6:27–28 (NIV®)
"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

Mark 11:25 (NIV®)
"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Discussion Questions

1. How does God's forgiveness impact your ability to forgive others? How can you use this knowledge to cultivate a culture of forgiveness in your relationships and community?

2. Corrie prayed as she approached the prison guard, "Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your forgiveness." Then, as she extended her hand, she felt a flood of forgiveness rush through her. When have you experienced God asking you to do something you didn't want to do—or weren't equipped to do—and He met you as you stepped forward with honest prayer and obedience?

3. Are you struggling to forgive someone? Forgiveness is not about a feeling; it's about a choice. Take time to process that fact. Then, say this prayer of forgiveness and take a powerful step toward healing.

Prayer for Forgiveness

Almighty God, forgive me of my sins. I have fallen short of what You created me to be. Cleanse me, and I will be clean. Pardon me, and I will be free. I choose to forgive all those with whom I am entangled by unforgiveness and anger. Lord, give me clarity on who I need to forgive, and remind me of situations that caused me hurt that I need to surrender to You. I praise You for what You will do and the freedom that will come to me.

I release these people: _____. I choose to forgive them, in obedience to You.

I release the following situations to You, and I choose to forgive everyone involved with them: _____.

Lord, when Satan tempts me to revisit these hurts, remind me of this moment and how I have released them into Your care, Your justice, and Your administration—fully and completely. I trust in You, and I rejoice in my new freedom. All of Satan's claims against me have been canceled. I am a child of the King. I have been justified, redeemed, sanctified, and I now serve the Creator of all things. In Jesus' name, amen.

4. Share a time when anger and bitterness threatened to overtake you or a time when you have witnessed this happen to someone else. How did you (they) handle it? What would you do differently, the next time this happens?

5. When God calls us to love our enemies, He also provides the love He requires. How can inviting the Holy Spirit more fully into your life change how you respond to those who have wronged, betrayed, or hurt you? Where do you need His help this week?

Prayer

Lord, thank You for showing great mercy and kindness to me. You have made provision that all my sins may be forgiven and that I might be righteous before You. I confess that I have not extended that same grace to others. I have held on to offenses, refusing to extend kindness, mercy, and forgiveness. Please bring to my mind anyone I need to forgive, that I may do so. Lord, please help me cooperate with the Spirit of God more fully so Your purposes may break forth in my life and in the earth. In Jesus' name, amen.

Dig Deeper:

If you're ready to explore this topic even more, we've assembled some resources to help you here: **wochurch.org/overcoming**

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