

Lenten Small Group Study Guide

TOGETHER WE PRAY

“And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us”

WEEK 4: MAR 10–MAR 16

CONNECT (15 MIN)

WELCOME

- We have just two weeks left in our Lent series. What are your plans after Lent? Talk to your group to see if anyone would like to continue and what your next steps might be. There are also short-term classes starting in April. Click on this link or go to <https://www.stlukesumc.com/group-finder>
- Ask the person next to you or the group what their favorite part of Spring or a favorite Spring activity.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the Glory, forever. Amen Matthew 6:9-13

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE VERSE REFERENCES:

DEUTERONOMY 15:1-2

Every seventh year you must cancel all debts. This is how the cancellation is to be handled: Creditors will forgive the loans of their fellow Israelites. They won't demand repayment from their neighbors or their relatives because the Lord's year of debt cancellation has been announced.

CULTIVATE (5 MIN) - WATCH OR LISTEN TO VIDEO

Click on the link below to watch our video this week from Pastor Mindie

stlukesumc.com/lentweek4

GROUP VALUES: It's important that you agree on the values you want to have in your group, such as openness, authenticity, and confidentiality. Honoring these values together creates a safe and healthy group environment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35 MIN)

Opening Question:

- This week we're studying the idea of being forgiven and forgiving others. What are some ways you see forgiveness show up in our world?

Scripture Study:

- Read Matthew 6:14. What does this tell us about the importance of forgiveness?
- Read 1 John 1:9. This verse tells us that we can and should go to God with confession and that we can know we will be forgiven. How do you practice this? What gets in the way of engaging in a practice of regular confession and forgiveness from God?

Engaging the Sermon:

- In this line of the Lord's Prayer, the word AND plays an important role and suggests that forgiveness might be more than something we aspire to but is actually something we need. Have you ever thought about forgiveness as an essential need? How does seeing it this way impact your view of what it means to forgive and be forgiven.
- This part of the prayer addresses our need to both forgive and be forgiven...two things that can be challenging in their own way! Which of these ideas has proven to be more challenging in your life?
- Think about Leanne's story about forgiving her mother-in-law. How does knowing someone's story make forgiveness more possible? When have you had the opportunity to release something or someone to God in forgiveness?
- Sometimes forgiveness feels like a risk (whether we give or receive it). What is the benefit of engaging in forgiveness? How do you help yourself remember that when faced with a moment to forgive or be forgiven?

CHANGE THE WORLD - (5 MIN)

Have you or your group participated in or plan to participate in one of the options on the Serving Guide? We would love to hear about your experience or what you plan to do.

PRAYER REQUESTS

CLOSING PRAYER:

Learning to pray is an important part of our Christian journey. You or a participant can prepare something ahead of time or just pray what is on your heart. Think of it as having a conversation with someone. If you are still a little unsure, look at a Psalm to read for inspiration to write your own prayer.