



Digging Deeper this week...

BiG iDEa: God invites me to ask him for something in exchange for my offenses.

Set aside some time throughout this week to read and reflect on what God's word says on the subject from the Bible passages below. Some questions are provided for you or a small group of friends to provide focus for your reflection. Before your start: Breathe, pray, ask the Holy Spirit for help.

Identify

Think of a time when feelings of guilt or shame overwhelmed you. Do you believe you deserved to *feel* this way? Why or why not?

Read

Scriptures to grow by... 2 Corinthians 5:16-21, Colossians 2:13-14, Luke 6:36-38, John 20:31, 1 John 1:8-9, 5:13, Romans 8:1-6, Romans 8:28-31, Lamentations 3:22-23, Psalm 27:1, Isaiah 53:1-8, Isaiah 61:1-3.

Reflect

1. What words, phrases or ideas stand out to you from the Bible readings you read today? How do these passages help you think about facts over feelings when it comes to believing and receiving God's forgiveness?
2. How do these words, phrases or ideas connect with your everyday life? What do they lead you to think or to do?
3. On Sunday, Doug indicated that "Jesus is not fair" when it comes to forgiveness since He doesn't give us what our sins deserve. When you think about this statement, do you find God merciful and generous or out to condemn you? How might others view you? Do they find you merciful and generous or one who is quick to condemn? What might Jesus want to say to you about this?

Respond

Moving forward...

God went to great lengths to give us freedom in exchange for bitterness, anger, fear, guilt and shame. What is something you are currently struggling with in your life? If you could get something from Jesus in exchange for your struggle, what would you have to let go of in order to receive what God wants to give you? Go ahead and ask Him what He has in exchange for you. Then, invite Him into whatever you are holding onto so that He can help you surrender it, and receive what He has for you.