



Digging Deeper this week...

BiG iDEa: God invites me to forgive when it doesn't seem fair.

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

How do you forgive people you never want to eat lunch with again? If God can make a way for reconciliation when you are inclined to say "no way" how willing are you to surrender and ask Jesus for help?

Read

Scriptures to grow by... Luke 13:31-35, 1 Cor. 5:1-13, 2 Corinthians 2:5-21, Matthew 18:21-35, Romans 12:17-20, 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Isaiah 53:3-19.

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 being reconciled in relationship with people you have forgiven?
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 said that Jesus' instruction to forgive a person *seven times seventy* indicates that we are to stay in some form of relationship with the offender (Mat. 18:21-22). How does this statement help you think about carrying out the ministry of reconciliation (1 Cor. 5:16-21)?

Respond

Moving forward...

To forgive and be reconciled is God's kingdom design. It is a "both/and" proposition ... not an "either/or" proposition. Where is God asking you to live out His kingdom initiatives of forgiveness and restoration?

If you are not sure, ask Him which relationships He is most interested in helping you with in the next week/month/year?