

DEFATH

Week Three: The Faith to Change - Study Guide

By Josh Miller

April 12, 2014

"I forgive you." Those are some of the most powerful words that can be spoken. They can mend and restore broken relationships. In this week's study, you will take a look at how forgiveness and faith in Christ are connected and how that connection has a powerful effect in your life and the lives of others.

Where Am I Today

- 1) Everyone has messed up and done hurtful things that need forgiveness. Think of a time you needed forgiveness from another person. What kind of feelings did you have before and after asking for forgiveness? How did it affect you and your relationships?

Into the Bible

- 2) Finding forgiveness in Jesus is directly connected to our faith in Him. Take a look at **Luke 7:36-50**. What was the difference between Simon's and the woman's response to Jesus? In what ways did the woman reveal her faith in Christ?

FAITH

WEEK THREE: THE FAITH TO CHANGE – STUDY GUIDE

- 3) Our faith in Christ is a response to the forgiveness Jesus brought to the world. Read **Luke 23:32-43**. How did people respond to Jesus, and what response did Jesus have to them? How can this serve as a great reminder that forgiveness is found through faith in Christ?

How Does This Apply?

- 4) Our first Core Value at The Cove is “We love God passionately.” When you live this out, you can be on mission to love people unconditionally, which is another one of our Core Values. How do you see the people around you? What are possible judgments you have placed on people because of their sin?
- 5) Jesus doesn’t acknowledge sin to condone it or condemn you, but to show you that His forgiveness has no limits. Jesus never exposes sin to ruin you, but to restore you. He doesn’t want you to remain muddied by sin, but He wants to cleanse you from it. What are some possible judgments that you’ve placed on yourself because of your sin? In what areas of your life have you possibly held onto your sin?
- 6) Self-righteousness causes us to see another’s sin while minimizing our own. When we become self-righteous, we squelch our faith in Jesus and substitute it with faith in ourselves. In what ways does self-righteousness interfere with faith and forgiveness? How does our faith in Christ help us avoid falling into a self-righteous trap?



FAITH

WEEK THREE: THE FAITH TO CHANGE – STUDY GUIDE

- 7) Your faith in Jesus enables you to find forgiveness. When you place your faith in Him, it changes the way you respond to sin in your life. Your response to sin exposes whether you're a lover of religion, self, or Jesus. How has your faith in Christ changed the way you respond to Jesus and to sin?

Continue Learning on Your Own

- 8) When we place our faith in Christ, it leads to worship of Him instead of other things. Worship has a way of exposing the values and affections of hearts. Take a look at the following verses: **Psalm 95:6; 1 Chronicles 16:29; Acts 20:32-35** and **Philippians 2:10-11**. Now reflect back on the story of the woman. What are some things we can learn about worshipping Jesus?