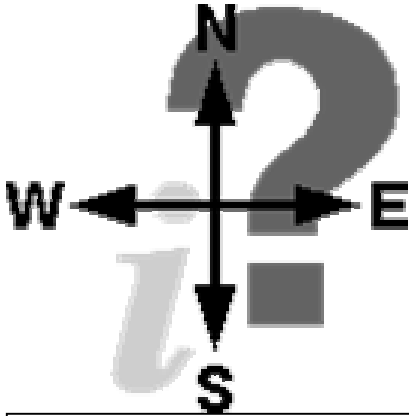


LIFE Community Sermon Notes



How can I be
sure I am forgiven

Hebrews 9:22

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Ephesians 2:4-9

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not of yourselves it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, August 12

Big Idea: How can I be sure I am forgiven?

Key Verse: *Heb 9:22b*

"...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

Opening Question: What is the most significant thing that has happened to you in the past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.

Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders notes.

Read the passages.

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss this phrase: "forgiveness affects everything".
2. The Bible clearly says that forgiveness requires the shedding of blood. How was this obtained in the Old Testament? How did Jesus work on the cross fulfill that requirement?
3. **Why was Jesus' work on the cross a final act? In other words, why are no more sacrifices being offered?**
4. **When was the last time you confessed your sins? By this I mean, not a cover all statement of confession, but a painstaking, heartbreaking honest confession of the sin in your life, by name, deed and heart.** *(Leaders may want to offer such a time to their group now. Either through worship, quietness or solitude, allow members in your group to go off and spend time with God, confessing their sins.)*
5. **Cynthia listed three aspects to a forgiven life: this life is fearless, forgiving, and free. Which of these three seem to be your biggest struggle and why? Which one will you focus on now that you have spent time seeking God's forgiveness? How will you focus on that aspect this week?**

Leader's Notes

1. *This is a sensitive session as it will touch people at their deepest need and deepest insecurities. Be sensitive to that as you lead this session, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you through your group study, stopping often to allow the Holy Spirit to work in and with people. If the need arises spend time in prayer, seeking God's forgiveness. If the occasion warrants, allow people to seek out others they may have wronged and ask for forgiveness.*
2. *Prepare a worship time that brings people to a place where they can confess their sins. As they do that, continue in your worship time taking them from a place of forgiveness to a place of celebration with God over the new life he has given them. This can be done with a CD, iPod or mp3 for groups unable to have musicians present, just have the songs prepared ahead of time and cued for the worship time. Make sure you have words for people in your group.*