



# MARRIAGE MATTERS

## SESSION 3 – FORGIVENESS

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us*

*Psalm 103:12*

What words or ideas come to mind when you reflect on God's forgiveness of you?

*For some ideas, see Psalm 103:12, Isaiah 1:18, Matthew 18:21 – 35, Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 1:9*

What do you think makes forgiveness hard in your marriage?

Why is your sin hard for your spouse to forgive?

What can you do to make forgiveness easier?

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. 1 John 1:8 – 10*

How does understanding God's forgiveness of you help you forgive your spouse?

What dangers does a lack of forgiveness create for us?

What makes it hard for you to confess your sin?

Why do you think the Bible urges us to confess our sin, not just to God, but to others (ie James 5:16)?

#### The Pattern of God's Forgiveness

1. God forgives and makes an end of sin, remembering it no more  
*Forgiving our spouse means relinquishing the (real or perceived) right to punish them for what they've done. Hebrews 8:12, Isaiah 43:25, etc.*
2. God decided to sacrifice and bear the cost himself in order to forgive  
*God offered to pay the price that sin incurred and doesn't look for opportunities for revenge.*
3. God forgives even when we repeat the same sin  
*God knows we will continue to battle sin all our lives, even the same sins.*

Which of these three aspects of God's forgiveness do you find it hardest to imitate?

Which do you think is hardest for your spouse due to your sin?

When have you most appreciated your spouse's forgiveness?  
What was it about their approach to forgiveness that made such an impact?

### FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

What can you put in place to enable your repentance to be more than saying "I will change," but to actually be changed?

What are some ways that God has grown you and made you more like Jesus through your spouse?

How can God be glorified in your marriage going forward?