

Thornbury Baptist Church  
Small Group Discussion Questions

**Talk Date:** July 13th, 2025

**Talk title:** Forgive Us Our Sins as We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us

**Passage:** Matthew 6: 12

**Speaker:** Paul Ferguson

## **Discussion Questions**

### **1. Forgiveness: A Beautiful Idea, a Costly Reality**

C.S. Lewis famously said that forgiveness is a lovely idea—until you have someone to forgive. It's easy to talk about forgiveness, but deeply costly to live it out when we've been hurt.

**Question:** Can you share a time when forgiving someone felt especially difficult or costly for you? What helped you (or what might have helped you) take steps towards forgiveness?

### **2. Breathe In God's Forgiveness, Breathe Out Forgiveness to Others**

Jesus ties our daily needs and daily forgiveness together in the Lord's Prayer. Just as we rely on God for daily bread, we're invited to rely on Him daily for grace to forgive.

**Question:** Why do you think Jesus links physical needs (daily bread) and spiritual needs (forgiveness) so closely? How might this change the way we pray each day?

### **3. Forgiveness is Rooted in God's Grace**

Our thinking about forgiveness must start with God's love and grace. God doesn't demand forgiveness from us as a harsh rule but invites us to share His life of mercy and freedom.

**Question:** How does remembering God as "Our Father" change the way you think about forgiving others?

### **4. Forgiveness and Our Relationships**

Forgiveness touches every part of life—our relationship with God, with other people, and even how we see ourselves. Sometimes forgiving ourselves is the hardest part.

**Question:** Do you find it harder to forgive others, or to forgive yourself? Why do you think that is?

## **5. The Fourfold Path: Telling the Story and Naming the Hurt**

Forgiveness doesn't mean pretending nothing happened. Steps like telling the truth and naming the hurt help bring wounds into the open so healing can begin.

**Question:** How comfortable are you with talking about past hurts? What do you think might help someone safely "tell their story"?

## **6. Granting Forgiveness and Deciding on the Relationship**

Forgiveness releases us from bitterness, but it doesn't always mean reconciliation. Sometimes, after forgiving, we must choose whether to renew or release the relationship.

**Question:** Have you ever forgiven someone but still needed to step back from the relationship? How did you know what was the right thing to do?

### **Takeaway**

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

All talks are recorded and may be viewed on TBC's YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM1OwaJ4eSICosAjl9Ofzjw>