

Small Groups

DISCUSSION GUIDE

“MORE THAN FORGIVENESS FROM THE PAST, BUT A PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE”

DR. CHRIS OWEN – APRIL 13, 2026

AS THE DISCUSSION LEADER, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Pray for your group discussion time!
- Choose a few questions from the guide that will generate the most discussion in your group.

GETTING TO KNOW ME (ICEBREAKER):

What’s one small thing in your life right now that feels like a “fresh start”?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. In the message, we saw how the Israelites panicked when they saw the Egyptian army, even after God delivered them from slavery. What triggers in your life cause you to doubt God’s deliverance, even after experiencing His faithfulness? (Exodus 14:10–12; Psalm 106:7)
2. How does viewing forgiveness as a doorway rather than a finish line change the way you approach your relationship with God? (1 John 1:9; Hebrews 10:19–22)
3. In what areas of your life do you feel stuck at the starting line, like you’re on a treadmill of forgiveness without moving into deeper transformation? (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18)
4. Pastor Chris shared that unforgiveness had become his way of maintaining control. What patterns or behaviors do you use to hold onto control instead of surrendering to God? (Proverbs 3:5–6; Ephesians 4:31–32)
5. Jesus said that eternal life is knowing God, not just being forgiven. How does this reshape your understanding of salvation and what it means to follow Christ? (John 17:3)
6. What does it practically look like in your daily life to abide in Christ rather than simply asking for forgiveness when you fail? (John 15:4–5; Galatians 5:16)
7. The message emphasized that God responds to the desperate, brokenhearted, and humble. How comfortable are you bringing the same struggle to God repeatedly instead of relying on your own effort? (Psalm 34:18; 2 Corinthians 12:9)
8. Jesus prayed that His followers would be one with Him, just as He is one with the Father. What barriers prevent you from experiencing this kind of closeness with God? (John 17:21–23)
9. How does the noise in your life—whether from technology, worry, or constant activity—drown out the rest and presence God wants to give you? (Psalm 46:10; Luke 10:41–42)

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES:

- Aaron & Winnie Horvat (Cameron) – *Croatia*
- Diane Oliver – *Northern Asia*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Join a Wednesday night class, support group, or prayer group! Visit victorylakeland.org/classes to find a class that best fits you. New Classes begin Wednesday, April 15 at 6:30 PM!