

Redefining Love: Week 3

February 16, 2025

Icebreaker Ideas

1. Favorite Way to Spend a Rainy Day
2. Dream Job as a Kid

WATCH VIDEO

Message Summary


This week, we looked at **love through forgiveness**. We often think about love as a feeling, but **real love involves action—and sometimes that action is forgiveness**. Jesus told the story of the **Prodigal Son** to show us God’s heart for us and how we are called to extend that same kind of **compassionate, unconditional, and grace-filled love** to others.


We saw **three key ideas** from the story:


1. **Love through forgiveness starts with compassion.**
2. **Love through forgiveness reflects God’s unconditional love.**
3. **Love through forgiveness overcomes resentment.**

Forgiving others can be hard, but it’s part of living out God’s love. **We forgive because we’ve been forgiven.**

Key Scripture(s)

 **Luke 15:20 (NLT)** – “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.”

 **Ephesians 4:32 (NLT)** – “Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.”

 **Luke 23:34 (NLT)** – “Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.’”

Talk About It

- 1 **What part of the story of the Prodigal Son stands out to you the most?** Is it the father’s compassion, the younger son’s return, or the older brother’s resentment? Why?
- 2 **Forgiveness often starts with compassion.** Have you ever experienced a time when someone showed you compassion and forgiveness when you didn’t deserve it? How did it impact you?
- 3 **Resentment can be a barrier to forgiveness.** Are there areas in your life where you might be holding onto bitterness or resentment? What would it look like to begin releasing that?
- 4 **God’s love is unconditional.** How does knowing that God loves and forgives you regardless of your past help you extend that same love to others?
- 5 **Forgiveness is a process.** What is one step you can take this week to move toward forgiveness—whether that’s praying for someone, releasing bitterness, or having a conversation?

Application Challenge:

Think of **one person** you need to **show love through forgiveness**—whether it’s letting go in your heart, praying for them, or taking a step toward restoring a relationship.

Prayer

God, thank You for loving us unconditionally and showing us what real love looks like through Jesus. Help us to receive Your love fully and let it transform the way we love others. Give us the courage to forgive, the compassion to see others as You do, and the strength to let go of resentment. We trust You to heal our hearts and lead us toward freedom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.