



## **HomeGroup Discussion Guide** **October 17-23, 2021 – The Soul of Community – a Forgiving Community**

**Devotion:** “Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” Colossians 3:13

When I think about that last sentence, “Forgive as the Lord forgave you,” I am overwhelmed by the weight of this command. How do we forgive like Jesus? How do we choose to forgive in the most painful of situations? Forgiveness is a practice. Forgiveness can happen in a moment or may require us to lay down our struggle daily at the feet of Jesus. However, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can forgive. Jesus empathizes with our pain and understands, better than anyone, what we are feeling. I often remind myself that Jesus forgave those who crucified him. He chose forgiveness in a moment of complete despair. His willingness to forgive strengthens me to also choose forgiveness.

In the twelve-step program of AA, they often use the mantra: “I think resentment is when you take the poison and wait for the other person to die.” M.T. A Sponsorship Guide for 12-Step Programs (1995). The beauty in forgiveness is that we not only release someone but we can find healing for ourselves. A community that forgives is one that practices forgiveness at every opportunity and “bear(s) with each other and forgive(s) one another.” Let us choose forgiveness.

### **Scripture – Read \_Ephesians 4: 31-32**

- Question 1: How has forgiveness brought healing to you?
- Question 2: What makes forgiving difficult for you?
- Question 3: How can we be a forgiving community?

**How is it with your soul?** (Go around and share as you look back to the “good and the bad” of this week and then look forward to what you can do or where you want to see God move this week.)

- o Where have you seen God this week?
- o Where have you struggled this week?
- o How can you be open to God/the Holy Spirit this week?

### **Prayers**