

A HARD ROAD

Faithfulness in all areas of life *from the book of Hosea*

Week 7

Key Scripture

Hosea 3:1-5

Open

1. Is there a person you had to forgive and was it hard to forgive them?
2. Is there someone you have chosen not to forgive? Tell us about that.
3. Does it sometimes feel better to hold onto bitterness than to forgive?

Dig

1. As a group read Hosea 3:1-5 - why would people tremble at the goodness of God in the long run? There is a symbolism of God's history with people in these verses. What are these verses symbolically pointing toward?
2. What is it about God's grace and forgiveness that makes it superior to bitterness and resentment? Why is it 'right' to forgive when it doesn't feel right?
3. Mark talked about how forgiveness doesn't mean that you have to start trusting someone again, tell us a story in your life where you have found that to be true.

Take Further

1. Why does Mark make a point to show us that forgiveness is not a feeling, it is a choice? What does that mean?
2. What did you think of Mark's definition of forgiveness as tearing up an "IOU?" Is there an IOU you need to tear up?
3. Name that thing or that person out loud and ask for the group to help you take the proper steps of forgiveness.

Prayer

Spend time praying for the right way to forgive the people in our lives who have caused us pain.