



Relationship with God - Session 5: The Struggle With Forgiveness

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Opening Prayer: Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Matthew 18:21-35

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Jesus, I want to follow You. I want to learn from You. I want to go where You would have me go and do what You would have me do. Change my heart to one of a devoted disciple. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What does this reading mean to you?

YouTube Video: I am struggling with forgiveness with Fr. John Bartunek, LC (5:51Min)-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3-J7hTTX3E>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. What are some general thoughts/feelings you have about what was said in this video?
3. What about this video do you find most challenging?
4. What about this video do you find most exciting and positive?
5. Do you find the distinction between emotion/feeling and decision difficult in your own life? Why do you think that is?
6. Fr. Bartunek encourages us to pray for those who have offended us to help our emotions catch up with our decision to forgive someone. What do you think about this?
7. Are you willing to share a time in your life when forgiveness was truly impactful?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Reflect on any resentment or anger you carry for those in your life you need to forgive. Pray for these people by name and ask God to give you His grace to heal you and forgive them.
- Read Catechism of the Catholic Church sections 976-983, and 2838-2845.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear Jesus, we have burdens we carry. We lift up our hearts to You and offer our individual intentions that may be weighing heavy on our hearts at this time... {allow time for people to offer up any prayers for themselves or others} We pray for these intentions and those left unsaid. In your name Jesus Christ, Amen.