

# **FEAST**

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## **ON FORGIVENESS**

### **SUMMARY:**

Our sermon series, Feast, takes place during the season of Lent, which is a 40-day period of time in which we prepare our hearts for Easter. It's a time of self-examination, reflection, and repentance so that we can follow Jesus at a deeper level.

This week's sermon focused on forgiveness. When we feast on forgiveness, we:

- become disciples of Jesus
- become missionaries inviting others to experience Jesus' forgiveness
- reject the self-righteous religion of the Pharisees
- remember that Jesus wants to save the self-righteous and religious too
- become merciful

Take time to consider what your experience of forgiveness has been in your life.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

Before you begin your discussion, take a moment to talk about Lent. Is anyone in the group familiar with Lent? Why is it important to take time to prepare our hearts for Resurrection Sunday (Easter)?

Read Matthew 9:9.

- Tax collectors during the time of Jesus were often hated and ostracized from the Jewish community because they worked for the oppressive Roman Empire and would sometimes cheat money from people. Why is it significant then that Jesus called on Matthew to follow him?
- Are there people in our community today who are regarded in the same way tax collectors were regarded in Jesus' time? How can we reach out to them in love, the same way Jesus reached out to Matthew?
- How did Matthew respond when Jesus called him?

Read Matthew 9:10-11.

- Who was invited to Matthew's dinner party?
- Who would you invite to a dinner party with Jesus? Why?

- Why were the Pharisees upset?

Read Matthew 9:12-13.

- Jesus says that it is the sick who need a doctor. What type of sickness is Jesus talking about in this passage?
- The Pharisees thought they were not in need of a doctor, but they were. In what ways were the Pharisees sick?
- What does it mean to show mercy to someone?
- How has God shown mercy to us?
- What is the connection between mercy and forgiveness?

End your time together by considering how God has shown you forgiveness and mercy. How will you live as a result?

Soul Tattoo: Feast on forgiveness!