Forgiveness in the Lord's Prayer Luke 11:1–4 | Receiving grace, extending grace

Opening question

Can you think of a time when someone's forgiveness made a real difference to you? What did it mean to you?

Read together

- Luke 11:1–4
- 1 John 1:5–9
- Mark 11:25

Jesus teaches us to pray, "Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us."

The talk looks at three words used in the Lord's prayer to describe the scope of forgiveness: **debts** (unfulfilled obligations in relationships), **sins** (missing the mark, both in what we do and fail to do), and **trespasses** (crossing boundaries). Which of these three categories resonates most with you, and why?

- Romans 7:19 says, "*When I want to do good, I don't, and when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway*". How does recognising our shared human weakness change the way we view our own shortcomings and the shortcomings of others?
- Jerry Bridges suggests we must preach the gospel to ourselves every day to avoid becoming either self-righteous or completely discouraged. What does "preaching the gospel to yourself" look like in daily life?

God's grace releases us from our debt, changes us from within and restores our relationships. We are called to receive that same grace and extend it to others.

Discussion questions

1. **The joy of forgiveness**
   The talk describes sin as bringing shame, separation and a desire to hide. How does knowing that God forgives us change the way we approach Him?
2. **Our relationships**
   The talk suggests that we can owe someone care, fall short in love or cross another person's boundaries. How might these things happen in everyday church life?
3. **Forgiving others**
   Jesus connects receiving forgiveness with forgiving others. Why can forgiveness be difficult, even when we know how much God has forgiven us?
4. **Grace and justice**
   The talk says that forgiveness does not mean pretending hurt doesn't matter or that justice is unimportant. How can we forgive someone while still taking hurt and

boundaries seriously?

5. **Grace flowing out**
   "Father, forgive us as we come to you in need of your grace, and make us people who extend the same grace to others." What might this prayer look like in our church this week?

6. **A tale of two seas**
   The teaching contrasts the two seas in Israel, emphasising that grace and forgiveness must flow *out* just as freely as they flow *in*. In light of 1 John 1:5–9, is there an area where you need to step further into the light, receive God's forgiveness, or extend grace to someone else this week?

A thought to take away

"Cheer up! You're worse than you think. Cheer up! The gospel is more amazing than you realised. Cheer up! God's Spirit works in your weakness."

We are forgiven, restored, led and empowered by God's grace. We do not have to hide from God; we can be honest with Him and allow His grace to transform us.