

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Strong and Sure

Sure About Forgiveness – 1 John 1:8-2:2

Discussion Points

May 10, 2020

Read/Reflect

1. If you have not yet read the entire letter, please do so to get a sense of the overall tone of the letter. After you read the letter as a whole does it challenge you, comfort you, encourage you, bless you, etc?
2. Read 1 John 1:8-2:2 aloud, then quietly reflect on what you've just heard. Then read the passage again (aloud), and notice the one word or phrase that stands out for you. What is God saying to you?

Explore

3. From the passage you have read, what do you think Christians in John's day struggled with over issues of sin? What are the issues over sin that we struggle with today? How does God's forgiveness personally make you strong and sure in your faith?
4. What temptation do you fall into more often: 1) a tendency to ignore my sins or 2) a tendency to let my sins condemn me? What attitudes and behaviors does the first tendency lead to in your life? What attitudes and behaviors does the second tendency lead to in your life?
5. Have you ever taken a "gamble on grace?" Did you win or lose? How has that effected the way you behave now towards forgiveness (whether offering it or receiving it)?
6. What for you is the hard part of receiving forgiveness?

<input type="checkbox"/> Asking for forgiveness (humiliation)	<input type="checkbox"/> Depending on another's mercy
<input type="checkbox"/> Confessing the wrong (pride)	<input type="checkbox"/> Relinquishing my pride
<input type="checkbox"/> Making apology instead of excuses	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
7. What for you is the hard part of offering forgiveness?

<input type="checkbox"/> Admitting you've been wronged	<input type="checkbox"/> Trusting after forgiveness
<input type="checkbox"/> Resisting hatred	<input type="checkbox"/> Forgiving myself
<input type="checkbox"/> Letting go of a grudge	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Pray

- Praise God for his forgiveness in your life, thank him for the freedom that gives you to live for him.
- Read Psalm 32 as a prayer of thanks and commitment
- pray the Lord's Prayer when you are washing your hands (it's at least 20 seconds)