

LUKE 17:1-5

29 MAY 2022

ICE BREAKER: Describe a time where you received good advice OR a time where you received bad advice.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

The disciples had been with Jesus for almost 3 years now. They had witnessed first-hand **Jesus' spectacular miracles**. They had seen Jesus heal every sickness imaginable, boldly rebuke the religious elite, deliver demonized persons, walk on water, control storms, and raise the dead to life.

Yet, surprisingly, Luke records the disciples only cried out to **increase their faith** when Jesus taught about this one issue—**repeatedly forgiving** those who **repeatedly offend us**.

1. How could **repeatedly forgiving others** often demand **more faith** from us than asking for **miracles**?

(Read verses 1-3) As expected, Jesus explained the **unrepentant person** who is the **cause for offense** in others will face **terrible consequences**. As Jesus warned, "It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck."

Unexpectedly, Jesus said not only are our offenders in trouble, but **we the offended** are immediately placed **in danger**.

2. How could we be **in danger** when **we were not the cause**, but **the victim** of others' sins?

(Read verses 3-4) Jesus outlined the necessary steps to become reconciled with those who have sinned against us. As Jesus stated, the **first step** is to "**rebuke Him**." We are **not to wait** for them to come to us. We must **go to them**.

To rebuke is a combination word meaning both "**punishment**" and "**honor**". To rebuke therefore involves bringing up a painful issue, which will often feel like punishment to our offenders. But we are to bring it up in such a way as to honor them.

Jesus said we must also **be specific** when we rebuke. "If your brother sins against you, go and show him **his fault**." And when we rebuke, Scripture says there is **a way to do it—gently**. "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him **gently**. (Galatians 6:1)"

3. Which is **hardest** for you to do when you **confront those** who have **sinned against you**:

a. To **go to the person** who has hurt you rather than wait for them

b. To **be specific** when you rebuke

c. To **be gentle**, bringing up the pain but doing so to uphold the other's honor?

(Read verse 3) The **next step** is our offenders' part. They must **repent**. We cannot do this for them. If they do not repent, we cannot be reconciled with them. To repent is **not making an excuse** for your sin, saying, "I'm sorry, but I would not have done that if you had not done this." To repent is **not simply feeling bad**, for example, "I'm sorry. I feel terrible." Rather, to repent means to **change one's mind** and to **turn away** from one's past actions. It means to **own up** to your sin and **specifically** ask others for their forgiveness.

4. What makes **repenting**, as Jesus taught, so **difficult**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)
