

FOR OUR CITY Part 5 - Tackling the Tough Stuff

People are hurting and our society has serious problems. We know there is a solution - Jesus. How can we continue to serve the hurting when we ourselves are being persecuted for representing Jesus?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read Matthew 5:10-12; 43-48.** What is it like to be falsely accused or criticized for something you believe in? How does that make you feel? Make a list of the things that you find hard to forgive someone for. Why is it difficult for you to forgive them for that?
2. Jesus said we are blessed when we are persecuted for doing the right thing. What comes to your mind when you read this? What is the blessing he is talking about in this persecution?
3. Retribution and retaliation are natural human instincts to being harmed or accused. Jesus told us to love our enemies and pray for them (vs44). Discuss how that statement makes you feel. How must your view of your “enemies” change for you to love them and pray for them?
4. **Read Matthew 6:12-15.** Forgiving others has to begin with accepting God’s forgiveness for you. Why do you think it is so difficult for us to accept God’s forgiveness for our self? How can truly realizing God’s forgiveness help you in forgiving people when they harm you?
5. Individually make a list of people that you either find it hard to forgive or need to forgive for something they have done. Pray together, as a group, for those lists and that each of you would have the willingness and the humility to forgive them as God has forgiven you.

MOVING FORWARD

***to whom in our community should we be generous?**

***how can you celebrate and be glad for all that God has done and is doing for you?**