

HOPE DEALERS

OUR HOPE IS IN HIS FORGIVENESS: PART TWO PASTOR E. PAUL ALLEN

May 22, 2016

- **1. Open in prayer with the Lord's Prayer.** Pray that God will use last week's message and this week's message to move people from the hopelessness of unforgiveness to the hope of His forgiveness.
- 2. Pastor Paul said, "We need to be reminded that forgiveness isn't figuring out what we can do but accepting what Jesus has already done". Discuss what that means in light of Christ living in and through us.

Walk through the A.C.T. process with your group:

3. Admit that you've been wronged.

Admit that you've been righted by Christ.

- a. Read Matthew 6:12 and Ephesians 1:7-8.
- b. What happens when we wallow in hurt and unforgiveness?
- c. What happens when we walk in God's love and forgiveness?
- 4. Confess that you've been hurt.

Confess that Jesus was hurt so you can heal.

- a. Read Isaiah 53:5.
- b. Unpack Pastor Paul's statement, "Unforgiveness is like an open wound that is open to infection but forgiveness can leave a beautiful scar that reminds us of what Christ has done."
- 5. Turn away from bitterness and vengeance.

Turn towards Jesus and His love.

- a. Read Matthew 5:44 and Colossians 3:13-14.
- b. How does bitterness and vengeance infest your life? (physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually)
- c. Marinate on this. "What's true of Jesus is true of us. If Jesus can love His enemies, we can too!"
- 6. Encourage each person to forgive who they need to forgive and close in prayer thanking God for our hope we have in His forgiveness.