

# LEADER GUIDE

## STUDY #1

BE TRANSFORMED

JOHN R. MURPHY

## REFLECTING THE HEART OF CHRIST THROUGH FORGIVENESS

### Key Objectives

The purpose of this lesson is to bring attention to and apply the concepts listed below and then encourage a call-to-action. The concepts are:

- God's desire to mold us into the image of Christ
- Forgiveness is foundational to Christianity and is a characteristic of Christ

### Discussion

Watch segment 1 of the study video before the discussion. The discussion objective for this study is for participants to resonate with God's call and feel compelled to respond by forgiving anyone from whom they have taken offense. Conclude the discussion in time to allow 5 minutes for the group to watch segment 2 of the video. As a facilitator, your role is to foster discussion that God can use to bring conviction to forgive. Use the questions below to stimulate the group discussion. Do not attempt to answer the question, bias the discussion or resolve disagreements.

### Read Romans 8:29 to the group.

- How do you feel about the message of Romans 8:29 that God has predestined to mold you to reflect inwardly the heart of Christ?
- What is your response to the necessity to be forgiving as a reflection of Christ's character?
- When you consider the idea of forgiving people, what obstacles or reasons for not forgiving do you commonly hear or experience?
- Do any of those constitute reasons for not forgiving someone? Why?

### Read Matthew 25:33 to the group.

- Can anyone here relate to feeling the torment of unforgiveness?
- Has anyone forgiven someone and experienced relief from the torment?
- How has this study changed the way you think about forgiveness?
- Knowing that forgiving others without condition honors God and is consistent with His desire to mold us into the image of Christ, how does that affect your ability or motivation to forgive people who have offended you?

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