



## Divine Forgiveness

**Focus** Divine forgiveness is a benefit given to us by God whereby He removes our sins and releases His forgiveness in our life, then chooses not to remember them.

**Fun** Have each person write down one or two words he or she feels describes a sin (it doesn't have to be personal) on a whiteboard as they arrive.

**Review** Key Scriptures: Psalm 103:1–5; Psalm 103:10–12; Isaiah 53:5; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 8:12; John 20:23

When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, we receive the benefit of divine forgiveness from the Lord so that we may have a relationship with Him. God forgives our acts—transgressions—of sin. God is omniscient and has all knowledge, but by an act of His will, He also chooses not to remember our sin. God has forgiven us from our inward motivations—iniquities—to sin. He has released us from our inward bent towards sin. Jesus said it's all sin, outward and inward, acts and thoughts, but through God's divine forgiveness:

- He removes our transgressions.
- He remembers our sins no more.
- He releases us from our iniquities.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** At the end of the meeting, have every person erase the word(s) they wrote on the whiteboard. Spray the board with cleaner and give it one more wipe down. Remind the group that God has not only wiped our whiteboard clean with His blood, but His blood has a chemical in it so the board can never be written on again.

## Discuss

1. Transgression is the outward movement of sin and iniquity is the inward motivation to sin. Give one or two examples of what you think this looks like. Explain.
2. We need to remind ourselves of the benefits we get from knowing God. What are a two or three of the benefits you've received from knowing God?
3. As an act of will, God chooses to forget our sins (to remember them no more). Remember, Satan is the one who continually brings up our past. Ask yourself: is there anything in your heart you need to choose to forget so that you may feel the benefit of God's forgiveness?
4. What are three ways we can show forgiveness to others, just as God has shown you?
5. Divine forgiveness is one of the many benefits you receive from God. What are some positive benefits you can give to people in your life?

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- When you forgive something, it doesn't mean you don't have knowledge of it—it just means you don't bring it up again.
- Satan continually brings up our sins; God does not.
- When we accept Christ, we are forgiven and released.
- God took what we owed (debt) and Jesus paid the price in full. God can't and won't charge us twice for our salvation.

## Pray

Father, thank You for the benefits we receive from knowing You and accepting Jesus as our Savior. Thank You for clearing out our filing cabinet and wiping our whiteboard clean so that we can have a relationship with You. Thank You for Your forgiveness and for sending Your Son to pay our debt in full. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Remind the group that if anyone is struggling in the area of receiving or giving forgiveness, there are a number of classes offered at the church to help.