

Outline

FORGIVENESS IN THE PRESENT

We need to be able to forgive not only injuries from our past, but the offenses that we encounter in our current, day-to-day lives. In order to do this, we need to know how to confront people when they trespass against us. Many of us fear confrontation, and think of it as being aggressive and unpleasant - but confrontation simply means looking at the truth. The goal of confrontation is always healing and restoration, not punishing or making someone feel bad. Dr. Cloud describes the process of forgiveness and shares some reasons why we might struggle with forgiving someone. He also points out that we must first accept God's forgiveness, as we can't give something to others that we don't possess ourselves.

Small group discussion questions:

1. Do you have negative associations with confrontation? Based on Dr. Cloud's description, can you now see it in a more positive light?
2. If someone is offending you in an ongoing way, how can you set the limits you need to?
3. Which of the obstacles to forgiveness that Dr. Cloud mentioned is most of a problem for you?