

# Weekly Study Guide

November 13, 2016

Wish to view the message again? Go to [vimeo.com/flcwb](https://vimeo.com/flcwb). Will you be out of town soon? Watch on-line at [livestream.com/flcwb](https://livestream.com/flcwb).  
Desire to ask Danny a question about today's message? Contact him at 651.429.5349 x215 or [dhousholder@flcwb.org](mailto:dhousholder@flcwb.org).

## *The Forgiveness of Sins*

Things I'd like to remember about today's message...

### Daily Readings

#### **Monday**

Acts 15:36-41

#### **Thursday**

Acts 16:11-15

#### **Tuesday**

Acts 16:1-5

#### **Friday**

Acts 16:16-40

#### **Wednesday**

Acts 16:6-10

#### **Saturday**

Acts 17:1-9

*Regular habits of private Bible reading strengthen our relationship with God and teach us how to follow Jesus. In addition to the thematic exercise above, you can use this guide each week to lead you through relevant sections of the Bible.*

# Group Discussion Guide

---

## CONNECT

This week we are focusing on forgiveness—and specifically, receiving it. Discuss some of the times in your life when someone forgave you. What did it feel like to be forgiven? How was your relationship with that person impacted?

## LEARN

The topic of forgiveness can be touchy, especially when we talk about receiving it. Who likes to admit that they've done something wrong? Yet, receiving forgiveness requires us to acknowledge that we messed up. Also, does anyone like not being in control? This is the case when we are looking for forgiveness. We're relying on someone else's ability to demonstrate grace. So, is seeking forgiveness really worth the challenge?

**Read Isaiah 53.** Remember, Isaiah proclaimed these words from God before Jesus came. Imagine hearing this prophecy from that perspective. How do you suppose Isaiah's audience responded? How might you have responded?

The passage talks about a pure servant who makes it possible for sinners to be justified. What are your thoughts about the servant? The sinners?

The servant is mistreated, unrecognized and despised. What sorts of emotions does this make you feel? Talk about specific verses.

Now, remember that we are people who fall short of perfection—sinners—and Jesus is the servant who came to justify us in the way that Isaiah 53 describes. What are your feelings regarding Jesus with this in mind?

**Read Romans 3:9-31.** Paul is pretty harsh on people in general in verses 9-18. Do you have any "knee jerk" reactions to what he is saying?

It can be tempting to separate the Old Testament from the New Testament into unrelated collections of books but in verses 10-18, Paul is quoting multiple Old Testament passages. What do you suppose Paul is doing here? Think about the connections we have with people who lived before Jesus.

Paul talks a lot about law and faith in this passage. What does he help you understand about following God's law and God's grace through faith?

After reading this passage, why do you suppose forgiveness in Christ is necessary to be in a relationship with God for eternity?

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.** Remembering that we all fall short of God's glory, what does this passage give you?

Paul writes, "The old has gone, the new is here!" If we really accept this promise, what does it mean for the way you live your life? Should we live with guilt? Are we able to live in freedom?

## PRAY AND APPLY

Please, do not ever forget that, while we are all sinners and we all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), we have been redeemed by a Savior who willingly took on our transgressions (Isaiah 53). You are forgiven, and you are made new (2 Corinthians 5:17)! No matter what you have done, you have been bought with the blood of Christ (Galatians 3:13-14), and you have been saved! Go live in that freedom!