From Forgiveness to Blessing
Session 1A
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Forgiveness and blessing go together -they're absolutely inseparable.

Being forgiven -> forgiving -> living from God -> a life of prayer -> living in the flow of _____

- It's the forgiveness of God to us; receiving forgiveness from others; that puts us in the position to move from being forgiven to forgiving.
- Forgiving is a miracle, a tremendous act of grace, which introduces us into a whole world of God.
- We move to a life of prayer -the connection between prayer and forgiveness is fundamental.
- A life of prayer doesn't mean we don't do anything else! It means that our whole life is bathed in prayer.

Matt 6:33 – Seek first the Kingdom of God…

- We should have as our first aim to be involved in what God is _____.
- We learn to act with God.
- We seek to have the kind of goodness that God himself has.
- "Seek first" means more than anything else.
    - and then everything else you need will be added to that.

And out of that life, blessing flows. It flows _____ ___ _____. You can't turn blessing on and off like you do your faucet. So when I'm cursed, there is a blessing in me which is already flowing. I don't have to fumble around to find the switch in the dark. It's out of that, that we learn to overcome evil with good.

Can you be tough appropriately without being unforgiving? How would that work?

It is natural that we are hurt in this world, but **it isn't natural nor necessary that we keep that wound open by practicing _____.** A person who is unforgiving is choosing to keep their wound open. It's a constant drain on their life and it separates them from what God is doing, because God forgives.

It is impossible to conceive of how God _____. He knows that forgiveness is better and more powerful than unforgiveness. *Each morning God says, 'So where do we go from here?'*

The life we are now living, is what God has given us to become who He wants us to be.

Scriptures to lay a foundation and wash our minds:

- Psalm 32:1-5 Forgiveness and freedom from deceit go together.
- Psalm 51:10 David had a lifetime experience of living openly before God. He also sinned, and he did what people do always when they sin: they hide.
- Psalm 130:1-5 The experience of forgiveness and the goodness of God experienced in it is presented as a basis for our fear and respect of God.
    - "God is really something different!"

    - Holy – a different kind of thing/of a different world.
    - Mercy -God would rather have mercy than sacrifice. (Hos. 6:6)
    - Mercy - it's another world from which to live. This other reality can be our reality.
- Proverbs 28:13
- Ephesians 4:30-32
    - This is a fuller picture of the kind of life that forgiveness opens us to.
    - Anger: you can be angry about some things, but you don't need to be.
    - Everything you can accomplish with _____ can be accomplished better without it.
    - Malice is intent to do evil; unforgiveness always involves malice.
- Colossians 3:12-13

The Scriptures: a book with the best _____ available on the most important topics.

- God doesn't force it on us, he makes it available, because he's dealing with persons and persons have to reach out you cannot force them.

We've a story to tell the nations that will turn their hearts to the light. That's why we are here; to bring the truth of God to a world that needs it.

The church is bringing vital _____ that isn't available anywhere else to people who _____ need it.

Our lives are made to run in a certain way and if that is not available to them, it doesn't work. Jesus' reference to children as representative of the Kingdom of God is his way of emphasizing their primacy in understanding the Kingdom of God.