



The Forgiven Life – Message 1

Announcements

- **Men's Night** with Kenny Luck // Tuesday, February 23rd at the LCC Campus and streamed live at GCC. Event starts at 7pm with a Vintage car show and food at 6pm. Encourage the men in your group to attend.
- **Women's Night** with Lysa TerKeurst // Tuesday, March 8th at the LCC Campus and streamed live at GCC. Event starts at 7pm; desserts and door opens at 6pm. Encourage the women in your group to carpool together. Childcare provided.

Warm-up

What are some things you can make a habit of each morning to remind yourself to walk in the light, love and life of Jesus Christ each day?

This week we begin a new six-part series called *This is Living: A Study of the Book of First John*. Using 1 John as our handbook, we will cover everything God intends for us. Through Jesus' work on the cross, we, followers of Christ, are now *forgiven, clean, anointed, loving, discerning* and *confident*.

Word and Application

The Apostle John explains that his writing in 1 John comes from first-hand experience of seeing, hearing, and touching that which was from the beginning. The life that we inherit by accepting Jesus gives us the power to overcome sin that allows us to truly fellowship with God and our neighbors.

Read 1 John 1:2-4. Describe how our fellowship with God grows stronger when we fellowship with other believers in weekly small groups?

When you live in harmony with God, the relationships in your life become more meaningful. The Holy Spirit begins to work on you from the inside to cleanse you from your sinful desires and replace them with desires that are more in line with God.

Read 1 John 1:5. How does properly dealing with sin create an environment that cultivates our relationship with God and others in our lives?

Let's face it our flesh fights against surrendering its will to the will of God. This struggle to surrender our will to God comes down to sin. The first step is facing our sin by laying it before God.

Read James 4:17. The first step to surrendering to God is asking the Holy Spirit to reveal sins that we may be unaware of in our own lives. Sometimes our sins are similar to a blind spot while driving.

Why is it sometimes hard to face the sin that God reveals to you in prayer?

God has equipped us all with what we need to overcome any and every sin. That leads us to **Three Approaches to Sin and Forgiveness:**

1. We can try to cover our sins

We are not deceiving others by trying to cover sin; rather we end up deceiving ourselves instead. Ignoring sin doesn't make it go away and nothing is hidden from God.

Read 1 John 1:5-10 & Proverbs 28:13. What does the impact of choosing to cover up sin have on our intimacy with God and others?

2. We can confess our sins

We have the privilege to put our past behind us and move forward in truth with the power that was deposited within us by God. Confession exposes the darkness of sin into the light for it to be burned from your record forever. God's power dwelling within us is bigger than sin

Read 1 John 1:7-9. Explain how it is healthy to be a constant confessor, never denying our sin but always acknowledging our sin.

3. We can conquer our sins

We cannot defeat sin in our own strength. You can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Read 1 John 1:2:1 & 1 Peter 2:24

What will you apply from this week's lesson, to truly live *The Forgiven Life*?

Prayer

Close in prayer by asking God to reveal areas of sin from which we need to confess and repent. Thank Him for His provision to overcome it all through His Son Jesus Christ! Pray for specific needs in your group.