



# *Learning to Juggle Life's Greatest Priorities*

## **GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | Forgiveness**

### **WELCOME**

- ◆ Spend a few minutes greeting everyone in the group.

### **ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS**

- ◆ What circus act best describes your family? In just a few words, explain why. (examples of circus acts: jugglers, clowns, acrobats, lion tamer, dancing elephants, contortionists, trick riders, human cannonball, knife thrower)
- ◆ What is one of your significant family memories? What made this memory meaningful?

### **DISCUSSION**

1. What makes family life dynamic or unpredictable - like a circus?
2. Read [Ephesians 4:29-30](#). How have you seen the power of words impact your family relationships? What do you think are the primary reasons hurtful, unwholesome words are used by family members?
3. Verse 29 talks about building up others "according to their needs." Give an example of a need one of your family members has and how you could consider that need to build them up.
4. How does unwholesome talk affect your relationship with the Holy Spirit? (vs. 30)
5. Read [Ephesians 4:20-28](#). What do these verses say to put off? With what should our old self be replaced?
6. How has knowing Christ and "the truth that is in Jesus" changed you? Where did the power to change come from? If you are not a Christian, what questions do you have that would help you know Jesus?
7. How has knowing Jesus changed the way you interact with others? What impact does your relationship with Christ have on your family relationships?
8. What tension do you experience between your old self and your new self?
9. Read [Ephesians 4:31-32](#). List the "dos" and "don'ts" in these verses. What is the focus or goal of the behaviors on each list?
10. Give an example when you or someone else in your family have demonstrated one of the "dos."
11. What "don'ts" do you tend to exhibit in your family relationships? "Hurt people hurt people." How might a past hurt be contributing to this tendency to hurt others in your family?
12. What does verse 32 say is the reason we can be kind, compassionate and forgiving? In what ways have you experienced God's forgiveness?
13. Read [Romans 5:8](#) and [2 Corinthians 5:21](#). "Forgiven people forgive people." How does living as a forgiven person enable you to extend forgiveness? (Note that there is no reference that extending forgiveness is conditional on the merit of the one needing forgiveness - remember that you don't deserve God's forgiveness.)
14. How could forgiving a family member draw that person closer to Christ (whether they are already a believer or not)?
15. How have you seen forgiveness strengthen or restore your family relationships? What relationships still need the kindness and compassion of forgiveness? Do you need to ask for someone's forgiveness? Do you need to extend forgiveness? Rather than grieving the Holy Spirit, how could you tap into His power to help you forgive?

### **PRAYER**

- ◆ Ask your community group to pray that God's power would enable you to take steps to forgive in a specific family situation from the past or to help you forgive as conflicts arise this week so that you can experience more of the fun aspects of the family circus!