

## Moving Forward 1

### Life-Sharing-Pioneers Lesson 1 Forgiveness & Healing Genesis 37:14-33, Genesis 50:15-21, Romans 8:28

1. Do you find it more difficult to forgive a wrong done to you or a wrong done to someone you love?
2. How does an unforgiving heart, keep us from being healed to move forward in life?

#### **Genesis 37:14-33 (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup> So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron. When Joseph arrived at Shechem, <sup>15</sup> a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

<sup>16</sup> He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

<sup>17</sup> "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. <sup>18</sup> But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. <sup>19</sup> "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other.

<sup>20</sup> "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams." <sup>21</sup> When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. <sup>22</sup> "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

<sup>23</sup> So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe--the richly ornamented robe he was wearing-- <sup>24</sup> and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. <sup>25</sup> As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

<sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?"

<sup>27</sup> "Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. <sup>28</sup> So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for

twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. <sup>29</sup> When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. <sup>30</sup> He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Where can I turn now?" <sup>31</sup> Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. <sup>32</sup> They took the ornamented robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." <sup>33</sup> He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."

### **Genesis 50:15-21 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"

<sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died:

<sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

<sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?"

<sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

3. What did Joseph's brothers take from him?

4. How did they try to guarantee that no one would go looking for Joseph?

5. It's been more than 25 years between Joseph going into slavery and the brothers asking to be forgiven. What's the longest you have held a grudge against someone?

6. Why did Joseph's brothers wait until their father had died before taking responsibility for their actions?

7. Why do we sometimes not come forward and apologize for the wrong that we have done?
  
8. What happens in a relationship when we try to move forward without confessing our feelings to the one who has hurt us?
  
9. Is it possible to forgive without the other person offering an apology? Why or why not.
  
10. At what point do you think Joseph forgave his brothers?
  
11. How were Joseph's brothers kept from moving forward during the time prior to their father's death?
  
12. Do you think Joseph should have let his brothers off so easily? He had been sold as a slave and later thrown into a prison? What punishment do you think would have liked to have seen them get, had you been Joseph?
  
13. Do you still spend time thinking about getting back at a person for a wrong that was done to you? Why won't you let it go?
  
14. What made it possible for Joseph to move on with his life?

15. How does this verse from Romans 8:28 help us to move forward when others have hurt us deeply?

**Romans 8:28 (NIV)** <sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to God's purpose.

16. Is it possible that our unforgiveness of others is actually an unwillingness to forgive God for allowing certain things to happen to us? Why or why not.

## Moving Forward 2

### Life-Sharing -Pioneers Lesson 2—Letting Go Of The Past Genesis 19:10-29, Ecc. 7:10

1. Jesus said, “come follow me.” What was the most difficult thing for you to let go of in order to follow Jesus or if you are not a believer, what is the most difficult thing you would have to let go of to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

2. What makes it difficult to let go of our past?

#### **Genesis 19:10-29 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> But the men inside reached out and pulled Lot back into the house and shut the door.

<sup>11</sup> Then they struck the men who were at the door of the house, young and old, with blindness so that they could not find the door. <sup>12</sup> The two men said to Lot, "Do you have anyone else here--sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, <sup>13</sup> because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it."

<sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who were pledged to marry his daughters. He said, "Hurry and get out of this place, because the LORD is about to destroy the city!" But his sons-in-law thought he was joking.

<sup>15</sup> With the coming of dawn, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished." <sup>16</sup> When he hesitated, the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.

<sup>17</sup> As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, "Flee for your lives! Don't look back, and don't stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!" <sup>18</sup> But Lot said to them, "No, my lords, please! <sup>19</sup> Your servant has found favor in your eyes, and you have shown great kindness to me in sparing my life. But I can't flee to the mountains; this disaster will overtake me, and I'll die.

<sup>20</sup> Look, here is a town near enough to run to, and it is small. Let me flee to it--it is very small, isn't it? Then my life will be spared."

<sup>21</sup> He said to him, "Very well, I will grant this request too; I will not overthrow the town you speak of.

<sup>22</sup> But flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach it." (That is why the town was called Zoar.) <sup>23</sup> By the time Lot reached Zoar, the sun had risen over the land. <sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah--from the LORD out of the heavens. <sup>25</sup> Thus he overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities--and also the vegetation in the land.

<sup>26</sup> But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. <sup>27</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and returned to the place where he had stood before the LORD. <sup>28</sup> He looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah, toward all the land of the plain, and he saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace.

<sup>29</sup> So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he remembered Abraham, and he brought Lot out of the catastrophe that overthrew the cities where Lot had lived.

3. Why had Lot chosen to live in the area of Sodom and Gommorah. (See Genesis 13:10-13)

4. How do we know things had not gone too well for Lot with his choice to live near Sodom. (See Genesis 14: 10-12, 14)

5. What do you think it was that kept pulling Lot back To Sodom?

6. Why do you think it was hard for Lot's sons in law to take him seriously?

7. Why is it hard for some people to take us seriously if we talk about the judgment of God coming to this country?

8. Why do you think Lot hesitated to leave when the angels told him so that the angels had to grab the arms of the four of them to get them out of the city?

9. What do you think the family was most afraid of once they got outside of the city?

10. What do you think is Lot's true motivation for trying to save the city of Zoar?

11. Why do you think Lot's wife looked back?

12. Have you ever gave something or someone one more look or one more chance and regretted that you did?

13. How does the desire to look back, hinder us in moving forward in areas of our lives?

**Ecclesiastes 7:10 (NIV)** <sup>10</sup> Do not say, "Why were the old days better than these?" For it is not wise to ask such questions.

14. Looking at Ecclesiastes 7:10, do you think the "good old days" were as good as we remember them to have been? Why or Why not?

15. Why must we at times resist the urge to say, "this is how we use to do it", or "this is how we always did it"?

16. When was the last time you actually did something differently from how you “use to do it?”



Moving Forward 3  
Life-Sharing Pioneers Lesson 3 —Fixing our Eyes On Jesus  
Hebrews 12:1-13 Luke 9:62

1. What was a goal you fixed your eyes on and stayed on task until it was completed even though at times you wanted to quit?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What do you think it means to fix your eyes on Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. When are you more likely to take your eyes off of Jesus—When things are going badly or when things are going extremely well?

**Hebrews 12:1-13 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

<sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. <sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

<sup>5</sup> And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My child, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone he accepts as His child."

<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as His children. For what child is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons and daughters. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

<sup>10</sup> Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

<sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces

a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.<sup>13</sup> "Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

4. We are often told that we as Christians are in a race. What is the race that we are running, and what do you think the finish line looks like?

5. What are the things that slow us down in our race for Christ?

6. Who are you racing against in your race for Christ?

7. Why are pain and setbacks a necessary part of each believer's walk?

8. What are some of the ways God disciplines us today?

9. How can we tell the difference between God's discipline and things just going wrong in our lives?

**Luke 9:62 (NIV)**

<sup>62</sup> Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

10. What do you think Jesus means by verse 9:62?

11. What are some positive steps that we can take to fix our eyes on Jesus as individuals to keep us moving forward?

12. What does a church look like that fixes its eyes on Jesus?

13. What causes a church to take its eyes off of Jesus?

14. What can you do to help your church stay focused on Jesus in order to keep it moving forward?

## Moving Forward 4

Life-Sharing Lesson 4 “God’s Calling On Your Life” Ephesians 4:1-6, Philippians 3:12-14, John 15:16-17

1. What comes to your mind when someone says “God has a calling on your life?”
2. Do you think God has something specific in mind to be carried out for each believer in the church? Why or why not?

### **Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

3. What is the calling that each of us has received in verse 4:1 and where did it come from?
4. When things are not going your way, on a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being the worse, how do you rate yourself on being humble, gentle, and patient, bearing with one another in love?
5. Are you known more as a peacemaker preserving the unity through the bond of peace or as one who ends a situation through anger and screaming or putting someone in his or her place?

6. Do you think God's calling on our lives is a calling "to come and do something" or more of a calling "to come and be something?" (what's the difference)

**Philippians 3:12-16 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and Sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. <sup>16</sup> Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

7. What kind of things do we have to forget in order to strain toward what is ahead?

8. What do you think Paul means in verse 12 when he says "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me?"

9. Why do you think Jesus Christ took a hold of you?

10. What do you think is the prize that God is offering us?

11. If you could do anything for Christ, what would it be?

12. What do you want your legacy to be in the church when the church is having your homegoing service?

13. What do you need to work on the most now for your legacy to become a reality?

**John 15:16-17 (NIV)** <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. <sup>17</sup> This is my command: Love each other.

14. What is the fruit that Jesus wants us to go and bear?