



## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS

SPEAKER: Bo Stern Brady

DATE: February 1, 2026

TEXT(S): Matt. 6:9-13 with Matt. 5:23-24, 18:23-35; Mark 11:25; Luke 10:25-37, 15:11-32, 17:3-4 + 36-50, 23:34; John 8:1-11; Ps. 68:19

**HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:** This resource is designed to help you, or your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. Our goal is to help you better understand and apply B4's teaching.

### MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

In this message, Pastor Bo works through Jesus' prayer, "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." This line indicates a daily rhythm at the heart of the kingdom: receiving forgiveness and extending it. Forgiveness is not a feeling but a loving readiness. God will meet us with the merciful forgiveness we need every time we fail. And He asks us to extend it to others every time they fail us. Through Jesus' teaching, stories, and actions, even as He hung on the Cross. Forgiveness is a defining mark of the cruciform life, a life deeply shaped by the love of Christ. These rhythmic exchanges shape not only personal relationships but our response to suffering, injustice, and indifference in the world, calling us to a costly mercy that is interruptable and sets us free.

**LEAN IN:** *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. When you think about routines or rhythms, what's one daily habit you rely on?
2. What's a phrase from the Lord's Prayer that's stuck with you over the years?
3. Do you tend to process things internally or by talking them out with others, and why?
4. What's something this past week that required a little extra patience from you?
5. When you hear the word forgiveness, what's your first emotional reaction?

**LOOK DOWN:** *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) above. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. What is important about Jesus pairing "daily bread" with forgiveness in Matthew 6?
2. How does Luke 17:3-4 challenge our limits for repeated forgiveness?
3. What stands out about the father's actions in the Prodigal Son story (Luke 15)?
4. Why does Jesus connect forgiveness with prayer in Mark 11:25?
5. What do Jesus' words from the cross reveal about forgiveness without repentance (Luke 23)?

**LOOK OUT:** *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. How does our culture define forgiveness differently than Jesus does?
2. Where do you see “indifference” normalized in society today?
3. Why is forgiveness often framed as weakness rather than strength?
4. How does reducing people to categories make forgiveness harder?
5. What might a community shaped by daily forgiveness look like publicly?

**LOOK IN:** *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Where in your life is God inviting you to receive forgiveness more deeply?
2. Is there someone you’ve delayed forgiving because it feels unsafe or unfair?
3. How aware are you of your own daily need for God’s loving mercy and grace?
4. What defenses might forgiveness require you to lower?
5. How might forgiving others reshape how you worship, pray, or love?

**LIVE IT OUT:** *These practical action steps help you apply this message to day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and talk it over for 5-10 minutes:*

1. Each day, pray the Lord’s Prayer slowly, pausing at “forgive us our debts.” Ask: Who do I need to forgive today? Where do I need mercy today?
2. Intentionally “stop and see” one person’s pain this week. Listen to them, acknowledge their pain, and offer tangible care, if possible. Ask yourself, What does love require of me right now?

You can find B4’s [Series Resources and a link to 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting here.](#)

