



On Ramp Class

SESSION FOUR

God understands our state of brokenness. Of course He desires better for us, of course this falls short of His best plans for our lives. But rather than allowing to remain alienated from His presence, God decided to take the initiative. He made the first move to restore our relationship with Him.

When God sent His Son Jesus, it wasn't just to model a good life for us. It wasn't just to perform a bunch of awesome miracles and make people's lives better. It wasn't even to teach really good lessons about right and wrong. Jesus did all of these things, but His purpose went way deeper. His ultimate mission was to offer Himself as a sinless offering, a representative substitute for each and every one of us. Offering to take all the sins of the human race – past, present, and future – upon Himself.

In this, God offered us the possibility of complete and total forgiveness for our sins. We understand forgiveness on the small scale: we've been forgiven for smaller things, maybe even big things. And we've experienced showing forgiveness to others. But God offers us forgiveness on the deepest and most fundamental level – one that can restore us to right standing with Him and offers us His righteousness to be able to remain in His presence as His child.

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.

- Louis B. Smedes

And all of this He freely offers. It must come from a place of pretty deep love, to go to such lengths in order to redeem us back from being stuck in brokenness. I hope you are starting to understand – or already fully grasp – just how amazing and far-reaching the love of God is for you, and that you can be restored back into right relationship with Him.

Here's some questions to think about. If you're inclined to write out your answers, it only stands to help solidify and reinforce what you believe. As you come together with others, bring some of these thoughts ready to share, bringing your perspective and experience to the table. We appreciate hearing how God is leading you through this journey!

Questions for Reflection:

- How does it impact you that God went so far as to provide a solution to your problem with sin, while you were still stuck in brokenness?

- How does this move your heart to respond to Him?

- What's an example from your life of a time you received forgiveness for a wrong you did? How did this affect you?

