



## Week One

### Opening Praying

God, thank you for this group. Help us to connect with each other in life-giving ways and help us to hear from you.

### Talk It Over

This new series focuses on helping us see the unhealthy games we might play in our relationships and learning how we might break free.

- Share about a time you had a hard time winning or losing gracefully.
- Would you consider yourself a competitive person? Explain your answer.
- In relational conflict, do you find yourself inclined to make sure there is a clear winner and loser?

### Read Romans 2:1 (VOICE)

This week's talk was specifically about the blame game — a game that keeps us from improving ourselves and our relationships.

- Have you ever been wrongfully blamed for something? Tell us about that story.
- When you find yourself shifting the blame, what would you say your motivation is? What do you generally hope to gain by blaming someone?

### Read Colossians 3:13

The apostle Paul reminds us to expect and make space for differences, issues, conflicts, and tensions that will inevitably arise between us. There is no question that other people's choices, personalities, issues, and lives will affect us. Some people will even annoy us and some people will even hurt us. Sometimes our relational issues will be a matter of someone behaving poorly, but often times the issue is more of a tension brought on by different personalities or preferences. And whether the offense was caused intentionally or unintentionally, the Bible teaches us to own our parts and embrace forgiveness.

Moreover, for better or worse, our choices, personalities, issues, and lives will also affect others too. We will also annoy and hurt others. And in turn, we will also need to seek forgiveness.

*Forgiveness Disclaimer: Don't forget forgiveness doesn't mean a relationship or behavior is safe or healthy. Forgiveness doesn't equate to trust either. Forgiveness is to cancel a debt and stop feeling angry or resentful toward someone.*

- Have you ever found yourself accusing someone of being "wrong" when they were just behaving or thinking in a manner different than you preferred or understood? Share about that experience.
- Have you ever been surprised by your willingness to forgive someone? What enabled you to say 'yes' to forgiveness?
- Have you ever really struggled with forgiving someone? What made forgiveness so difficult?

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- Have you ever been forgiven well? Explain how that looked and what that meant for you.
- Share about a time you had to ask someone to forgive you? What was that process like?

### **Read Psalm 119:45 (VOICE)**

When we take healthy ownership for ourselves and stop blaming others, we embrace breakthrough and freedom.

- When it comes to playing the game, where do you struggle the most? Do you repeatedly struggle with owning your part, embracing forgiveness, asking for forgiveness, being okay with tension brought on by differences, or letting go?
- Is there a person in your life today you want to work on forgiving? If so, what is keeping you stuck?
- Is there a person you owe an apology to? Tell us a little about what you did wrong and consider what your next right step might be.

### **Closing Prayer**

God, regardless of where we are on this journey and topic, help us hear from you and encounter your love. Thank you for meeting us where we are and inviting us into deeper freedom.