

Adult Group Study Guide for April 5, 2020
Series: “I Believe” – “I believe in the forgiveness of sins”

Goal: To confess our sin and receive the forgiveness that God promises to us.

Key Verse: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* - 1 John 1:9

1. Most people are willing to admit that they make mistakes at times, but usually avoid saying “I have sinned.” What is the difference between making mistakes and sin? Why is the promise of the forgiveness of sin at the core of our faith?

2. The Heidelberg Catechism (Q&A 3) asks the question “How do you come to know your miserable (sinful) condition?” The answer quotes the summary of the law in Matthew 22:37-40 and observes that we do not live up to this law perfectly and we have a natural tendency to hate God and our neighbor. Why is this summary of the law all we need to know when we measure our sinfulness?

3. Make a list of the effects of sin in our lives from the message and the following passages:
 - a. Romans 3:23 (where do we fall?)
 - b. Romans 6:23 (what are the wages?)
 - c. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (what will we inherit?)
 - d. 1 Thessalonians 5:19 (what does it quench?)
 - e. 1 John 1:3, 6, 8-10 (who are we deceiving?)

4. Pastor Austin defined forgiveness as when a guilty party is let out or off the hook for something fully, forever, and freely. Why is each part necessary for complete forgiveness?
 - a. God forgives fully. (Psalm 103:11-12)
 - b. God forgives forever. (Peter’s story)
 - c. God forgives freely (Romans 5:6-8)

5. We tend to carry a load of secret guilt around with us that we have difficulty admitting even to ourselves. What changes when we confess that “we believe in the forgiveness of sins” and turn towards God in repentance?