

the oppressed go free and that you may break every yoke?"

How does this apply to forgiveness?

9. What is the reward to us if we obey and forgive others?
 Isaiah 58:8 *"That your light will break forth like the dawn and your healing will quickly appear, then your righteousness will go before you and the Glory of the Lord will be your rear guard."*

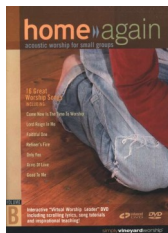


10. **APPLICATION:** What is one take away from this week's sermon or discussion that you will apply to your life in the coming week?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Need help with your life group worship? Take a look at these DVDs specifically designed for small groups. They're inexpensive and easy to use! You can purchase them from www.christianbook.com.

- Vineyard's "Home Again"
- Integrity's "i Worship @ Home"



Week 4: October 10-16

Fall 2010 Sermon Series Life Group Discussion Guide

Can I really change?



SCHEDULE

Week	Dates
1	Sept 12-18
2	Sept 19-25
OFF	Sept 26-Oct 2
3	Oct 3-9
4	Oct 10-16
5	Oct 17-23
OFF	Oct 24-30
6	Oct 31-Nov 6
7	Nov 7-13

Week 4: "Releasing Others"

“Releasing Others”

SERMON SERIES: “Can I Really Change” - Pastor Dan Backens

NOTE TO LEADERS: Welcome back to the fall 2010 “Can I Really Change” sermon series! Please use this discussion guide merely as a reference as you facilitate your life group meeting this week. The guide contains a variety of discussion questions for you to choose from. Please feel free to adapt your discussion as you see fit. Highlight the questions you like the most and/or add your own, if you like. This is merely a tool to help you get started.

Please test the DVD and review this guide well in advance of your meeting so you are well prepared. The Lord bless you this week. We pray that you have a great time as you gather with your life group!

ICE BREAKER (15 min): *Remember the "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"? What is your take on what happened at the end of the story? Have you ever been a "Grinch"?*

OPENING PRAYER: Ask a group member to lead this.

WORSHIP (10 min): If you don't have someone to lead with an instrument, choose 2 songs that everyone would know and burn these to a CD, if possible. Perhaps something related to this week's topic. Provide printed lyrics. See recommended worship tools on the back of this guide.

VIDEO (7 min): View the DVD. Ask the group to make a mental note of things that strike them from Pastor Dan's interview with Vickey Maclin.

DISCUSSION OUTLINE (20-30 min)

1. Since we started this series on change, do any of you have an area of change that God has helped you with that is worthy of praise yet?

2. In this week's message, Pastor Dan stated, "the greatest tool we have for personal change may be our willingness to receive and give forgiveness." How did he say this starts in our life? Read Matthew 5:23-24 *"Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go and be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift."* What does this say about God's perspective on forgiveness?
3. Given the choice between the effective use of spiritual gifts or humility, is our ministry gift more likely to change a life or is our humility more likely to change a life? How?
4. When is it okay to "sit" on our unforgiveness towards others after the Lord brings it to our attention? Read: 1 Samuel 15:22 *"Has the Lord as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to heed than the fat of rams."* Note: Remember, we leave our sacrifice at the altar and go and be reconciled and then go and offer up our worship.
5. What did Pastor's story of Zaccheus in Luke 19:8 teach us about restitution after an offense? "But Zaccheus stood up and said to the Lord, *"Look Lord! Here and now I give half my possessions to the poor and if I have cheated anybody out of anything I will give back four times the amount."*
6. Is it always necessary to seek forgiveness for an offense against another? EXAMPLE: Someone has hurt your feelings by something said about you. Hint: They might not even realize they have hurt you and to bring it up may cause even more hurt. Forgive and let it go.
7. When we forgive others what happens to us? (Pastor said, forgiving changes the way we remember, we get our lives back, it releases us and it matures us and makes us grow up).
8. Read Isaiah 58:6 *"Is not the fast that I have chosen, to loose the bounds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let*