

DISCUSSION NOTES

OCTOBER 30, 2016

Pray and ask God to teach you, help you trust Him more, and strengthen you to live what you learn.

GETTING STARTED

1. Whether someone is a regular churchgoer or not, most have likely heard of the idea of the unforgivable, or unpardonable, sin. In popular culture, what is the general idea of the unpardonable sin?

DIGGING IN

2. Read Mark 3:22-30. What city were these scribes from? Why is this significant? What were they saying about Jesus? Do they deny his power or his ability to influence the supernatural?
3. When Jesus addresses the scribes, he makes a logical argument in verses 23-26. How would you explain Jesus' statement? How does this refute the claims of the scribes?
4. Jesus continues to make his case in verse 27. What is his illustration here? Who is the strong man? Who has been tied up? What goods are being plundered?
5. In verses 28-29, Jesus makes a theological statement about forgiveness. In verse 28, how many sins will be forgiven the children of man? In contrast, what does verse 29 say about forgiveness?
6. What seems troubling in Jesus' teaching in verses 28-29? How do we make sense of this statement given all that we know about Jesus from other scriptures (see Mark 10:45, John 3:17, 1 John 1:9)?

LIVING IT OUT

7. If you had to put it into your own words, what is the one sin that God can not forgive? If a person is concerned, humble, and recognizes his or her need of forgiveness, how can we be sure that they have not committed an unforgivable sin?
8. Was Jesus' sacrificial, substitutionary death on the cross enough to pay the penalty for all the sins of those who repent and believe? Do you believe this to be true? What historical act confirms that Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient enough to conquer sin and death (see Mark 16:1-7)?
9. When you have doubts or insecurities about your salvation and the forgiveness of your sins, where should you look for reassurance and comfort? Is this a personal struggle for you? Why or why not?
10. If you had to identify one way that God is personally teaching you or convicting you in this teaching, what would it be?