

forgiveness and how that impacts our discipleship.

### 'Reconciliation' by Muthuraj Swamy

This was the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book in 2019 and is a powerful text for exploring reconciliation including what gets in the way, how God is reconciled to us and the risks of reconciliation.



**Podcasts** (*the links are from apple because that is where I listen to my podcasts!*

*Apologies if you use a different provider but you should be able to search for them.)*

Emmaus Rd Podcast: Crossroads: The Way of Forgiveness

The Confessional: Forgiveness and Reconciliation with Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg

### **Prayer**

The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

<https://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk/reconciliation/reconciliation-ministry>



## **Deeper Dive: Forgive One Another**

These resources are to help you go deeper as we explore together how we are called to be with one another as the people of God. There's lots of thoughts, ideas and resources here so use whatever is helpful and may you be blessed as you go deeper in your relationship with Jesus and one another. You might find them useful to study alone, or want to study them with others – in discipleship groups, families, couples or with a friend.



### Going Deeper: Scripture

This may be the hardest week of our series for us to explore. Forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel, shown in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but that does not mean that it is easy. There's a wide range of experiences we have as human beings that invite us to forgive; some can be simple and easy for us to forgive and move on, others can hold onto us for a lifetime as we struggle with the hurt somebody has inflicted upon us.

It is clear from Scripture and the person of Jesus that forgiveness is never cheap. The words Jesus spoke from the cross, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing", were spoken in the middle of terrible pain and suffering and yet with great understanding and compassion for humanity, seeking to draw close to us even as we pushed God away, even to the point of crucifixion. Ephesians 4 invites us to this

depth of forgiveness, “be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you”. We are capable of forgiveness only because of the forgiveness the Lord has extended to us. This is true for all of the weeks we have shared. We love because he loved us first, we encourage because he encourages us, we serve because he served us, and so on. This forgiveness is about freedom. When we are able to forgive somebody, we can let go of the hold they have over us and we can be free. But, this call to forgiveness is not cheap and it is not about condoning sin. Note how in Ephesians 4:25-32 there are many instructions about how to live, the behaviours to put away from us, and it then closes with the call to forgive. The two go hand in hand. We are called to forgive but also called to be committed to righteousness. These verses hold together the damage sin causes with the command to forgive.

This week, take some time to prayerfully read and reflect on each gospel telling of Jesus’ crucifixion. Allow the Lord to speak to you about the call to forgive through this mighty act of forgiveness.

#### Going Deeper: Reflection or Discussion and Prayer

- Do you know yourself to be forgiven by God? Do you live with the freedom of forgiveness?
- Set some time aside for confession, trusting in the infinite love and mercy of God. Are there habits of sin in my life that need to be broken?

- Is there anyone I am struggling to forgive? Bring this before the Lord and welcome the grace of the Lord.
- How do we forgive extravagantly as the Lord does for us and take the reality of sin seriously at the same time?
- It is not just individuals in our lives that need forgiveness, there are systemic patterns of injustice in the fabric of society that also need repentance and forgiveness. Pray through the Coventry Litany of Reconciliation this week.

#### Going Deeper: More Resources

Each of us learns differently so here are a variety of resources that you might want to use to help you encounter God’s love more deeply, grow in your love of God and yourself and enrich your commitment to love your neighbour.



#### **Music**

‘O Come to the Altar’ by Elevation Worship

‘At the Cross’ by Chris Tomlin

#### **Books**

‘The Book of Forgiveness’ by Desmond & Mpho Tutu



This book is powerful and practical in walking us through a journey of forgiveness, acknowledging the pain and struggle of that journey with great wisdom.

‘Being Disciples’ by Rowan Williams, Chapter 3: Forgiveness

This book is all about being a disciple of Jesus, as the title might suggest to you! This chapter is a challenging and profound one about the call of Jesus to be people of