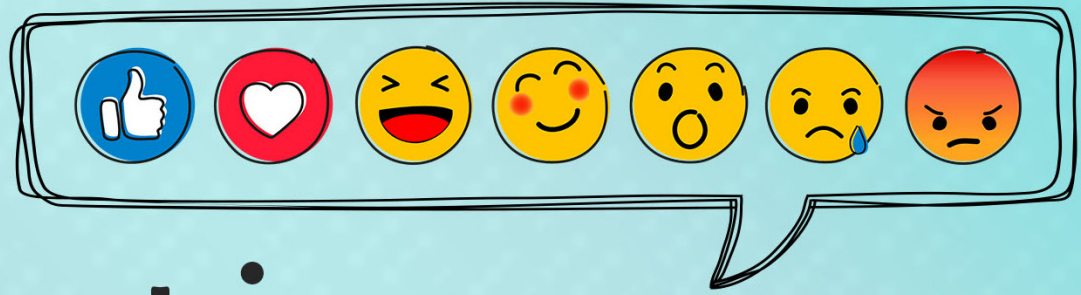


reactions

FORGIVENESS

1. Pastor Mark suggests that life is a school and therefore we have to go through many tests, especially tests of character. Share a time when you went through a time of testing. How did you get through it?
2. Talk about a time when you did something that you regretted. How did you finally come to peace with your regret?
3. Pastor Mark points out that when we are confronted with our sin or our poor choices, we must avoid two mistakes: either we trivialize or justify it, or we beat ourselves up with condemnation. Why are both of these responses unhealthy and ultimately unhelpful?
4. Read Romans 8:1. Why is this verse important to remember when we are dealing with guilt or shame over something we have done?
5. Pastor Mark tells the story of a Christian man who refused to receive Holy Communion because of something bad he had done in his past. Why is that a poor reason for a Christian to refuse Holy Communion?
6. What would you say to someone who says, "What I've done is so bad, God can't even forgive me."?



reactions

7. Pastor Mark also points out that sometimes we need to forgive God. This is not meant to imply that God has done something wrong and needs our forgiveness. What do you think it means?
8. Why do you think it is important for us to let go of bitterness, resentment and anger towards God when we experience hardship, disappointment and tragedy in life?
9. How is the test of forgiveness actually a test of our faith?