

# **THE SHACK**

## **Small Group Discussion Guide**

Week #9 February 25 "Forgiveness"  
Pastor Neal Nybo

**Luke 9:51** <sup>51</sup>As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

**Luke 6:36** <sup>36</sup>Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-18** <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

***Notes and Thoughts ...***

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## Small Group Discussion Guide

### Facilitator Guide

The next study series, ***Transforming Relationships***, will begin with the sermon on February 28/March 1. We will continue to provide discussion guides each week, based on the scripture and sermon content.

There will be 5 groups continuing to meet on campus for the next series, these are **open** groups, newcomers are *welcome*:

1. Tuesday evenings, 3/3 – 4/14, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Upper Fireside, Facilitators: Sharon Brower and Rochelle Castillo
2. Wednesday mornings, 3/4 - 4/15, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., Upper Fireside, Facilitator: Pastor Ray Sparling
3. Wednesday evenings, ongoing, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., Room 254, *Small Group for Young Families*
4. Thursday mornings, ongoing, 6:00 – 7:30 a.m., Fellowship Center, *Men's Ministry*
5. Friday mornings, 3/5 – 4/17, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m., Room 260, Facilitators: Patti Hunter and Rochelle Castillo

From Pastor Neal Nybo's Ash Wednesday sermon, also found in the Welcome Center and on line:

#### ***The Word of God Says in Jesus Christ...***

**I am faithful** (Ephesians 1:1)

**I am God's child** (John 1:12)

**I have been justified** (Romans 5:1)

**I am Christ's friend** (John 15:15)

**I belong to God** (1 Corinthians 6:20)

**I am a member of Christ's Body** (1 Corinthians 12:27)

**I am assured all things work together for good** (Romans 8:28)

**I have been established, anointed and sealed by God** (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

**I am confident that God will perfect the work He has begun in me** (Philippians 1:6)

**I am a citizen of heaven** (Philippians 3:20)

**I am hidden with Christ in God** (Colossians 3:3)

**I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-discipline** (2 Timothy 1:7)

**I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me** (1 John 5:18)

**I am blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing** (Ephesians 1:3)

**I am chosen before the creation of the world** (Ephesians 1:4, 11)

**I am holy and blameless** (Ephesians 1:4)

**I am adopted as his child** (Ephesians 1:5)

**I am given God's glorious grace lavishly and without restriction** (Ephesians 1:5,8)

**I am in Him** (Ephesians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:30)

**I have redemption** (Ephesians 1:8)

**I am forgiven** (Ephesians 1:8; Colossians 1:14)

**I have purpose** (Ephesians 1:9 & 3:11)

**I have hope** (Ephesians 1:12)

**I am included** (Ephesians 1:13)

**I am sealed with the promised Holy Spirit** (Ephesians 1:13)

**I am a saint** (Ephesians 1:18)

**I am salt and light of the earth** (Matthew 5:13-14)

**I have been chosen and God desires me to bear fruit** (John 15:1,5)

**I am a personal witness of Jesus Christ** (Acts 1:8)

**I am God's coworker** (2 Corinthians 6:1)

**I am a minister of reconciliation** (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

**I am alive with Christ** (Ephesians 2:5)

**I am raised up with Christ** (Ephesians 2:6; Colossians 2:12)

**I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms** (Ephesians 2:6)

**I have been shown the incomparable riches of God's grace** (Ephesians 2:7)

**God has expressed His kindness to me** (Ephesians 2:7)

**I am God's workmanship** (Ephesians 2:10)

**I have been brought near to God through Christ's blood** (Ephesians 2:13)

**I have peace** (Ephesians 2:14)

**I have access to the Father** (Ephesians 2:18)  
**I am a member of God's household** (Ephesians 2:19)  
**I am secure** (Ephesians 2:20)  
**I am a holy temple** (Ephesians 2:21; 1 Corinthians 6:19)  
**I am a dwelling for the Holy Spirit** (Ephesians 2:22)  
**I share in the promise of Christ Jesus** (Ephesians 3:6)  
**God's power works through me** (Ephesians 3:7)  
**I can approach God with freedom and confidence** (Ephesians 3:12)  
**I know there is a purpose for my sufferings** (Ephesians 3:13)  
**I can grasp how wide, long, high and deep Christ's love is** (Ephesians 3:18)  
**I am completed by God** (Ephesians 3:19)  
**I can bring glory to God** (Ephesians 3:21)  
**I have been called** (Ephesians 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:9)  
**I can be humble, gentle, patient and lovingly tolerant of others** (Ephesians 4:2)  
**I can mature spiritually** (Ephesians 4:15)  
**I can be certain of God's truths and the lifestyle which He has called me to** (Ephesians 4:17)  
**I can have a new attitude and a new lifestyle** (Ephesians 4:21-32)  
**I can be kind and compassionate to others** (Ephesians 4:32)  
**I can forgive others** (Ephesians 4:32)  
**I am a light to others, and can exhibit goodness, righteousness and truth** (Ephesians 5:8-9)  
**I can understand what God's will is** (Ephesians 5:17)  
**I can give thanks for everything** (Ephesians 5:20)  
**I don't have to always have my own agenda** (Ephesians 5:21)  
**I can honor God through marriage** (Ephesians 5:22-33)  
**I can parent my children with composure** (Ephesians 6:4)  
**I can be strong** (Ephesians 6:10)  
**I have God's power** (Ephesians 6:10)  
**I can stand firm in the day of evil** (Ephesians 6:13)  
**I am dead to sin** (Romans 1:12)  
**I am not alone** (Hebrews 13:5)  
**I am growing** (Colossians 2:7)  
**I am His disciple** (John 13:15)  
**I am prayed for by Jesus Christ** (John 17:20-23)  
**I am united with other believers** (John 17:20-23)  
**I am not in want** (Philippians 4:19)  
**I possess the mind of Christ** (1 Corinthians 2:16)  
**I am promised eternal life** (John 6:47)  
**I am promised a full life** (John 10:10)  
**I am victorious** (1 John 5:4)  
**My heart and mind is protected with God's peace** (Philippians 4:7)  
**I am chosen and dearly loved** (Colossians 3:12)  
**I am blameless** (1 Corinthians 1:8)  
**I am set free** (Romans 8:2; John 8:32)  
**I am crucified with Christ** (Galatians 2:20)  
**I am a light in the world** (Matthew 5:14)  
**I am more than a conqueror** (Romans 8:37)  
**I am the righteousness of God** (2 Corinthians 5:21)  
**I am safe** (1 John 5:18)  
**I am part of God's kingdom** (Revelation 1:6)  
**I am healed from sin** (1 Peter 2:24)  
**I am no longer condemned** (Romans 8:1, 2)  
**I am not helpless** (Philippians 4:13)  
**I am overcoming** (1 John 4:4)  
**I am persevering** (Philippians 3:14)  
**I am protected** (John 10:28)  
**I am born again** (1 Peter 1:23)  
**I am a new creation** (2 Corinthians 5:17)  
**I am delivered** (Colossians 1:13)  
**I am redeemed from the curse of the Law** (Galatians 3:13)  
**I am qualified to share in His inheritance** (Colossians 1:12)  
**I am victorious** (1 Corinthians 15:57)

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### START IT:

- [New groups] Share a time when you were a kid where you got revenge on someone, maybe a sibling.
- Share a time when you hurt someone and knew you needed to receive forgiveness.
- Why can it be so difficult to do something you don't want to do? Share a time when you did something you really didn't want to do.

### STUDY IT:

- Read Luke 9:51. What does this verse say about who Jesus is?

Read aloud: **"As the time approached, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. He turned his face towards the hardest test of his life. He began walking towards God's destiny for him...It was the journey of our forgiveness, and we are invited, called, to walk with him."** Neal Nybo, February 25, 2009, "Forgiveness"

- What makes forgiving someone so hard? Why does it require resolute determination?
- Read Luke 6:37. What is the connection between forgiving someone else and receiving forgiveness? Why do you think Jesus connects them?
- In *The Shack*, Mack is very determined not to forgive his daughter's murderer. What can unforgiveness do to one's soul?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-18. What is God's promise to those who both receive and practice forgiveness? What does it mean to be a new creation?
- Why is forgiveness so central to Jesus' message? Why is practicing forgiveness so essential to following Jesus?

### LIVE IT:

- Is there someone on your heart that Jesus wants you to forgive? Share with the group.
- Sometimes we're aware that someone else holds a grudge against us, but we feel justified in our role in the relationship. Perhaps Jesus might want you to ask for forgiveness anyway. Is there someone that He might be asking you to approach? Share...

### PRAY IT:

- Do you need forgiveness for something? Ask God for it, and believe that he does.
- Pray the Lord's Prayer together. Pause before you pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors", and speak the name(s) of someone you need to forgive before you finish the prayer.