

SESSION 6

FORGIVENESS AND NATIONAL IDENTITY

Exploring how forgiveness shapes societies, history, and the future

Reading

- Chapter 10 and Conclusion

Watch the Video



Opening Question

What do you find hardest to acknowledge about your country's history or present?

Key Idea

Forgiveness is not only personal but also has implications for societies and nations. Every nation carries both achievements and failures, and the challenge is how to hold both honestly. Without forgiveness, cultures tend toward denial, blame, or division. With forgiveness, there is space for truth, repentance, and renewal.

This does not mean ignoring wrongdoing, but refusing to let it define the future. Forgiveness allows for a more honest and hopeful engagement with history, where both accountability and restoration are possible.

Reflection & Discussion

- Why is it difficult for nations or groups to acknowledge their failures?
- What is the difference between loving a country and refusing to see its flaws?
- Can forgiveness play a role in public or national life? How?
- What would it look like to hold both honesty and hope together?

Going Deeper (optional)

Pay attention to how conversations about your nation's past actually happen around you (in media, family, education). Where do you notice defensiveness, silence, or simplification? What effect does that have on understanding and healing?

Prayer

Lord, we bring you our nations. We bring you the glory and the shame, the things we are proud of and the things we would rather not see. Give us the courage to be honest. Give us the humility to repent where repentance is needed. And give us the hope to believe that forgiveness can open a different future - for our communities, our countries, and our civilisation. May we be people who do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Amen.