



Key Passage: Luke 23:32-55

Core Truth: We are forgiven because God loves, not because we're good.

- ⏪ The thief had **conviction** ("don't you fear God?" v. 40)
- ⏪ The thief **confessed** his sins ("we did wrong, He did not" v. 41)
- ⏪ The thief **converts** into a believer ("remember me" v. 42)
- ⏪ The thief has **confidence** (Jesus says, "Today you'll be with me" v. 43)

Prompt: It's too easy to believe the narrative that we are essentially good people. We overlook our sin and selfishness. We overstate our good deeds. Fortunately, no amount of good or bad can separate us from God when we ask for His forgiveness. Confession is the key to unlock God's cleansing.

Have your students take a minute to write down their good deeds for the day. After a minute, have them count. Give them a penny for each good deed. Next give them ten seconds to write down one misdeed. When the time is up, explain how one misdeed will cost them a billion dollars. Give them the option to pay up with their pennies or simply ask for forgiveness.

Read Romans 6:23 before starting the video. Let them know Clayton King will talk about forgiveness.

Play: Video of Clayton King, "I Am Forgiven" www.buildmomentum.org/resources.html

Process: Select from the following questions to help students **remember**, **rekindle** and **reengage**.

- ⏪ **Reread Luke 23:32-55** (Crucifixion cf., Matt. 27:32-54; Mark. 15:21-39; John 19:16-37).
- ⏪ At the very end of his life, Jesus was surrounded by sinners, a thief on either side. **According to Clayton, what is the significance of Jesus having a sinner on either side of Him?**
- ⏪ Clayton mentions sheep and goats as two responses to God. This notion of Two Responses or Two Ways is consistent in Jesus' teaching (Matthew 7, 25, cf. Psalm 1 and Proverbs 1). **How does it help to think of your life as one of two directions rather than a decision?**
- ⏪ Clayton notes four movements moving the thief from death to life, from condemned to forgiven. **What are the four movements? What is a good definition of confession?**
- ⏪ Read 1 John 1:5-9. **What does this tell us about confession?**
- ⏪ **What keeps people from confessing sin?** (Think about personal shame, bad theology, etc.)
- ⏪ Clayton said, "Quit trying to hide your past, your sins. There are no secrets from Jesus. He loves us because He's God, not because we're good." **How easy is it to believe this? How helpful?**
- ⏪ This thief did nothing good, but confessed in the eleventh hour and died with confidence in Jesus. **What does this tell us about compiling good deeds to earn salvation?**

Pray: Have students group up. Encourage them to confess sinful attitudes and actions to one another (or quietly to God). Remind them to thank God for being faithful and just to cleanse them of sin.