**Application Questions from January 24, 2021 sermon “Forgiving Our Failures.”**

1. In what ways do you struggle with guilt and shame? Describe how this has negatively impacted your walk with Christ. Share with others how your relationship with Christ has helped in this regard.
2. What is the difference between sin and just making mistakes? What would you say to someone who tells you that they are without sin? What passages would you use to refute this belief?
3. Read 1:9. Why do you think it’s so difficult to confess our sins? What two qualities of God’s character can be counted on? What two results come when we confess? How do these truths impact your guilt and shame?
4. How does the teaching found in James 5:16 correspond with 1 John 1:9?
5. Read 2:1. Do you think it’s possible to go through a day without sinning? Is this something we should strive for? If so, how can we do this? Read Exodus 20:20. How can the fear of the Lord keep you from sinning?
6. Discuss the balance that John seems to keep between not being too lenient towards sin while not being too severe with sinners. How would you rate yourself in striving for this balance? What can you do to grow in this area?
7. How does knowing that Jesus speaks to the Father in your defense affect the way you approach Him? Are you timid and shy or bold and confident (see Hebrews 10:19-25)? What difference does it make to you that you have an Advocate?
8. Discuss ways that this passage can help your parenting. How should you approach your child when he or she has sinned and won’t admit it? In what ways can you help them confess what they’ve done to Jesus? Ask other parents (or grandparents) for their advice.
9. In 2:2 we see that Jesus paid the price for our sins, and for the sins of the whole world. Does this mean that everyone’s sins are forgiven?
10. In what specific ways can you and your family partner with God in reaching the world? If you’re in a group, what can you do together to minister to the “whole world”? Read Acts 1:8 and discuss how you can focus on those closest to you and reach out “to the ends of the earth.”
11. Who can you help to live in the freedom of forgiveness this week? Pause and pray right now that God will give you the opportunity to speak to this individual.
12. If you don’t already have 1 John 1:9 memorized, do so right now.