

Forgiveness

“Not forgiving is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.”

What God has done for you

Day 1: Read Psalm 103

1. What benefits do we receive from God?
 - a. (v. 3a) _____
 - b. (v. 3b) _____
 - c. (v. 4a) _____
 - d. (v. 4b) _____
 - e. (v. 5a) _____
 - f. (v. 5b) _____

2. What does the text say God is like? (v.8-9) [*Want to go deeper?* Look up these words in a dictionary and record their definitions below]

3. How does God deal with us? (v.10)

4. Read the rest of Psalm 103 and soak it in.

5. What does Rom. 5:8 say that Christ did?

Why you should forgive

Day 2: Read Matthew 18 for context. Pay special attention to verses 15-35

1. What does verse 15 say?

[Note two important things. First, the “brother” indicates that the person who needs correction is another Christian. Second, one should distinguish if the offense is a sin or if the offense has to do with someone’s preference. In other words, did another Christian sin against you or did they simply *not* do what you wanted them to do?]

2. What was going to happen to the servant in verses 23-25 because he could not pay his debt?
3. How much did he owe the Master?
4. What did the servant beg for? (vs. 26)
5. How did the Master respond? (vs. 27)
6. How much did his fellow servant owe him? (vs.28)

7. How did the wicked servant respond to his fellow servant? (vs.28-30)
8. As a result, how did the Master deal with the wicked servant? (vs. 32-35)

How and When you should forgive

Day 3: Read Luke 17:3-10

1. Who is Jesus teaching? (v.1)
2. What does v. 3a tell us to pay attention to?
3. What does v. 3 instruct us to do?
4. Look up Luke 17:3-4 in Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary Commentary, p.1113. What is the significance of **seven**?
5. Summarize in one or two sentences what v. 7-10 says.
6. Read Luke 17:7-10 in Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary Commentary, p. 1113. What are your new insights regarding these verses?

Day 4: Read Luke 23:34; Mark 11:25; Acts 7:60

1. What did Jesus pray? (Luke 23:34)
2. Did the offender confess sin and ask Christ for forgiveness?
3. **Read Mark 11:25**
 - a. What does this text instruct you to do?
 - b. Are the offenders in this passage present to confess sins and ask for forgiveness?
 - c. Why does the text tell us to do this? (v. 26b)
4. **Read Acts 7:60**
 - a. What did Stephen pray?
 - b. How did this reflect Jesus' *attitudinal forgiveness*? [note: Attitudinal forgiveness is necessary because either 1) it is not appropriate to contact that person, 2) that person has died, or 3) that person has not sought forgiveness.]

Day 5: Read *Forgiving Others* by: Timothy Lane

1. Write down your insights and be ready to discuss.

Reflection:

1. **With whom have you struggled to grant forgiveness?**
2. **Do you need to confront someone (Luke 17:3), or do you need to maintain attitudinal forgiveness toward him/her, like Christ and Stephen? (see Day 4 verses)**
3. **What are you afraid will happen if you freely forgive that person?**
4. **Are there any sinful attitudes or unrealistic expectations you need to confess to God:**
 - a. Because you believe the offender must *earn* your forgiveness?
 - b. Because you believe you must *punish* the offender in order to cause them to suffer like you have suffered?
5. **Take time to pray and ask God to help you in this area. We look most like Christ when we forgive!**

Resources:

Forgiving others by: Timothy Lane (booklet) [Amazon \$4.49]

Trusting God by: Jerry Bridges (Book) [Amazon \$ 10: 15]

Accepting God's Forgiveness (booklet) by: C. John Miller

Biblical Peacemaking by: Ken Sande (Book) [Amazon: used/good \$4.50]

Freedom from Resentment by: Robert D. Jones [Amazon: 4.49]

Bitterness; The Root that Pollutes by: Lou Priolo (booklet) [Amazon: \$ 4.49]