



Forgiveness

Matthew 7:3-5; 1 John 1:8-9; Proverbs 28:13

Big Idea: Peace at home, work, with family, friends, and even enemies is not only possible but closer than you might think. These messages of hope will help you find the way to peace in the most challenging relationships.

Bottom Line: Your forgiveness shows what you think of God's forgiveness.

Review:

The first thing we learned is conflict is our opportunity to glorify God. As Jesus followers, we seek to glorify God in every area of our lives, and conflict is no exception.

The second thing we learned is the importance of examining our hearts at the start of every conflict. We like to go in with gloves on, swinging, but God wants us to begin with a gracious and gentle attitude dealing with how we contributed first.

Last week we discussed the importance of confessing sin and how to confess sin – 7 A's: Address everyone involved; Avoid if, but, and maybe; Admit specifically; Acknowledge the hurt; Accept the consequences; Alter your behavior; and Ask for forgiveness.

Introduction:

Today, we want to talk about forgiveness.

Truth:

You cannot forgive in your own strength.

Forgiveness is not a feeling.

Forgiveness is not forgetting.

Forgiveness is not excusing.

Instead, sin creates a debt that must be paid.

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors (Matthew 6:12).”

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed (1 Peter 2:24).”

Will you **take** payments on the debt owed to you?

Or, will you imitate Christ and **make** payments on the debt owed to you?

Forgiveness is a decision modeled after God's forgiveness.

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you (Colossians 3:13).”

There's the standard. Just say, “Lord, how do you forgive me?”

“Love ... keeps no record of wrongs (1 Corinthians 13:5).”

Forgiveness is really four promises.

1. I promise I will not dwell on this incident.
2. I promise I will not bring up this incident and use it against you.
3. I promise I will not talk to others about this incident.
4. I promise I will not allow this incident to stand between us or hinder our personal relationship.

In Kids Club, the children learned:

Good thought, hurt you not,
Gossip never, friends forever.

Imitate God's mercy.

“He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but he who confesses and renounces them finds mercy (Proverbs 28:13).”

Conclusion:

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:1-2).”

Application & Next Steps:

- Memorize Ephesians 5:1-2
- Memorize the Four Promises of Forgiveness
- Reconcile with Someone this Week
- Begin with Getting the Log Out of Your Eye and Confess Your Sin
- Forgive Whatever Grievances You Hold Against Someone Else