



## Forgiving August 9, 2020

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Icebreaker: Have you ever paid off a debt before the allotted time? What did that feel like?

We are studying foundational truths of the Bible that tell us who we are in Christ. Knowing our identity in Him gives us a firm foundation to build our lives on in crazy times.

*“When we know who we are, we can act rather than react.” —Pastor Rob O’Neal*

We are looking at some of the implications of being belonging to God: having a relationship with Him, persevering through tough times, giving love to others. This week we’ll see the importance of forgiving one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

### **Why should we forgive one another?**

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- **Because Christ has forgiven me.**

**Read Colossians 3:12-13 and Ephesians 4:31-32.**

[Q] How does being forgiven a great debt by God make it possible for me to forgive others?

[Q] If I am unwilling to forgive, what am I not believing about God?

[Q] According to the above verses, what kind of attitude should I have towards people who have wronged me?

- **Because we belong to one another.**

[Q] According to Romans 12:5, as members of Christ’s Body, we belong to one another. What happens to the Body when someone is unwilling to forgive a brother or sister in Christ? See 1 Corinthians 12: 26-27.

- **Because it brings healing to the hurt.**

[Q] How can obeying Jesus by having a forgiving mindset lead to peace and healing?

## What does forgiving one another look like?

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[Q] The new normal presses us to fear one another and think uncharitably about others. Look up the following verses and create a list of how to treat a person whether he/she has repented of the wrong against you or not. (These may be attitudes or actions.)

Matthew 5:44

Luke 6:28

1 Peter 3:9

Romans 12:19

Romans 12:20

Proverbs 24:17

Exodus 23:4

[Q] Discuss what forgiveness is not:

Forgiveness does not mean you can't be angry at sin.

Forgiveness does not necessarily mean you can trust the offending person.

Forgiveness does not mean there are no consequences to the sin.

## How?

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To forgive those who sin against us requires the transformational power of God in our lives. It is a supernatural response, empowered by God.

**Read Mark 11:22-25.**

[Q] What does faith have to do with forgiveness? Why does Jesus seem to directly relate the two?

“It takes faith to forgive – faith that God is sovereign, faith that He has a plan for allowing what He does, and faith that He will use whatever happens for your good. When you don't forgive, you are telling God that you don't believe He has a purpose for the pain. You are telling God you don't trust Him.” — Tony Evans, *Horizontal Jesus*, p. 147.

## Apply

[Q] Is there someone you need to forgive? Will you ask God for His power and the faith to forgive?

Is there someone you need to ask forgiveness of?

Ask your group members to pray with you and for you.