

# FORGIVE

SERIES BIG IDEA:

**Trusting in God's measure of \_\_\_\_\_ on all sin gives us the grace and freedom to \_\_\_\_\_ others.**

*And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*  
Mark 11:25 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. <sup>4</sup> Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them."

Luke 17:3-4 (NIV)

## MARK 11 AND LUKE 17 REVEAL TWO ASPECTS OF FORGIVENESS:

- **Forgiveness in Mark 11 is only personal—an internal response to release any desires for \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **Forgiveness in Luke 17 is relational—an external means to have the relationship \_\_\_\_\_.**

## FORGIVENESS FROM MARK 11:25

*And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.*  
Mark 11:25 (NIV)

- **It takes \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to forgive others.**
- **Harboring unforgiveness exposes our lack of \_\_\_\_\_ in God's unmerited grace that forgives our sins and our position in Christ.**
- **Forgiveness requires a desire for \_\_\_\_\_, even if it is not possible.**

**This aspect of forgiveness is personal and must \_\_\_\_\_ happen.**

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:17-18 (NIV)

## FORGIVENESS FROM LUKE 17:3-4

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Luke 17:3-4 (NIV)

- **God desires to see a social \_\_\_\_\_ in the community when possible.**
- **Forgiveness promotes loving \_\_\_\_\_ that leads to social healing.**
- **Loving justice requires us to \_\_\_\_\_ by speaking the truth in love, and to allow consequences to come.**

**This aspect of forgiveness is relational restoration. This may happen but may not be \_\_\_\_\_ this side of eternity.**

<sup>15</sup> Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ...

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Ephesians 4:15, 29-32 (NIV)

# FORGIVE

I can forgive \_\_\_\_\_ because in Christ, God \_\_\_\_\_ me.

<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup> He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

Luke 17:5-6 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

Through faith in Jesus Christ, I can forgive what \_\_\_\_\_ impossible.



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**TEACHING SUMMARY:**

Forgiving someone can seem impossible, especially when the pain or trauma from the injustice we have experienced is so deep. Jesus presents two directives on forgiveness that provide a complete understanding of how disciples are to forgive.

In Mark 11:25, Jesus teaches that every disciple must forgive anyone for anything. To withhold forgiveness is to demonstrate that we do not comprehend the forgiveness God has extended to us.

In Luke 17:3-4, Jesus instructs us to rebuke those who have wronged us so that forgiveness and social healing can occur. Social healing involves repentance, reconciliation, and restoration within the community. Forgiveness fosters a loving justice that allows consequences to facilitate restoration of relationships with God and each other. While personal forgiveness is crucial, full reconciliation may not be possible if the offender does not repent. Through faith in Christ, we can forgive what seems impossible.

*Prayer: "Lord, increase our faith."*

**TALK-IT-OVER:**

In what ways do Jesus' teachings on forgiveness conflict with what culture says about forgiveness?

When have you experienced the radical forgiveness of another person? How did that gift affect your heart and mind?

Read Ephesians 4:15-32. What connections do you find in this passage with Jesus' teachings to rebuke and forgive in order to see social healing?

What is one next step you need to take today?

Who do you need to tell about what you've learned?

**DAILY SCRIPTURE READING:**

Day 1) Colossians 3:13

Day 2) Luke 6:36-38

Day 3) 1 John 2:1-2

Day 4) Acts 7:55-59

Day 5) Luke 23:33-35

Day 6) Matthew 6:12-15