



FORGIVENESS

IMPORTANCE | EXTENDING | TRANSACTING | REDEEMING

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY SERIES

FORGIVENESS

Receiving it, seeking it, offering it, transacting it, understanding it.

Small Group Bible Studies
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All Scriptures references are from the Holy Bible, *English Standard Version*. (2001) 2016.
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Study 1

THE IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Objectives

1. To understand what genuine forgiveness is.
2. To be able to receive God's forgiveness.
3. To experience freedom from hurt and bitterness through a transaction of forgiveness.

A young minister had recently arrived to be installed as the church's new pastor. Most of his new congregation were nearly twice his age and dealing with life problems that he had never experienced. Yet despite this, he quickly won their support and trust as they soon came to know him. What he lacked in life experience he more than made up for by his depth of knowledge of God's Word and how to apply it pastorally. It wasn't long before others heard about the young minister's wisdom in dealing with some of these problems they had long battled with and they flocked to hear him offer this wisdom Sunday by Sunday as well. As he called for a response to his sermons, men came forward asking for prayer for the years of guilt they had carried for the wrongs they had committed and the people they had hurt, women came forward for the load of bitterness they were carrying toward their ex-husbands who had abused them horribly, and younger mothers came forward asking for God to heal their marriages that were now under strain since the arrival of the child. In each instance this young minister was dealing with a wrong understanding of forgiveness - how to receive it from God, seek it from others, extend it to others, and experience what a transaction of forgiveness felt like.

1. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 1:10:49 pm

Matt. 18:21 ¶ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

Matt. 18:22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

2. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 2:26:47 pm

Peter took a rather intolerant view of forgiveness -especially compared with Christ's.

Christ's view of forgiveness is a reflection of the Father's forgiveness and love to us who continually disappoint Him! Praise God!

3. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 1:14:06 pm

Matt. 18:23 ¶ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

Matt. 18:24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

Matt. 18:25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

Matt. 18:26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

Matt. 18:27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

Matt. 18:28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'

Matt. 18:29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

Matt. 18:30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

Matt. 18:31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

Matt. 18:32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Matt. 18:33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?"

Matt. 18:34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

Matt. 18:35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of

1. Read Matthew 18:21-22 and note the difference in Peter's and Christ's understanding about forgiving -

2. _____

2. In Matthew 18:23-35 how did Jesus reveal the basis for how we could forgive those who have hurt us

4. _____

3. How does Christ's statement in Matthew 18:35 show us that forgiveness is not really just a matter of telling someone that you forgive them?

6. _____

7. When someone i _____ y hurts or offends us in some way, our most natural impulse is to hurt them back. The desire for revenge is the seedbed for a psychological poison called b _____ s which actually does nothing to the person who has hurt you. Forgiveness is the antidote to this poison.

4. How does Ephesians 4:31-32 describe genuine forgiveness?

10. _____

5. If left unchecked and not dealt with, what damage can bitterness do to a soul according to Hebrew 12:15?

12. _____

you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

4. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 1:14:29 pm

We are enabled to forgive others because God has forgiven us so much.

5. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 2:29:24 pm

Matt. 18:35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

6. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 2:29:33 pm

Because Jesus said that our forgiveness must come from our heart.

7. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 2:32:35 pm

intentionally - this is an important point of consideration.

8. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 2:36:03 pm

bitterness

9. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 4:26:50 pm

Eph. 4:31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

Eph. 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

10. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 4:27:52 pm

It states that there should not only be no malice or bitterness, it also says that there should be a positive attitude shown toward those who may have offended us.

11. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 4:31:51 pm

Heb. 12:15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

12. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 4:32:10 pm

It can become a poisonous root in a person's soul that can lead to all sorts of trouble and cause defilement.

13. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
15 June 2022 at 4:52:18 pm
right
14. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
15 June 2022 at 4:56:05 pm
It should 'detox' a person's soul of their bitterness toward the one who has hurt them.
15. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
15 June 2022 at 6:06:23 pm
Matt. 18:22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.
Matt. 18:23 ¶ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.
Matt. 18:24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.
Matt. 18:25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.
Matt. 18:26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'
Matt. 18:27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.
Matt. 18:28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'
Matt. 18:29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'
Matt. 18:30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.
Matt. 18:31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.
Matt. 18:32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.
Matt. 18:33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'
Matt. 18:34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.
Matt. 18:35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

16. **Dr. Andrew Corbett**
15 June 2022 at 6:18:30 pm
Acts 10:43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins

What Happens When We Forgive

Unforgiveness is a symptom of hurt. Hurt can look like tears, anger, malicious talk, sullenness, withdrawal, and even over-the-top happiness when in public. But when someone resolves that they will forgive the one who has hurt them they relinquish their hurt and their **r _ _ _ t** to hurt that person back. In essence they cancel the indebtedness of the offender.

13

6. What does this kind of forgiveness do to a person's soul? Discuss.

14

How Receiving God's Forgiveness Enables Us To Forgive Others

15

Let's reconsider Christ's parable of the forgiving king in **Matthew 18:22-35**.

7. In your own words, what was the point that Jesus was making about why His followers should be enabled to forgive others? Discuss and share.

16

Becoming a follower of Christ is made possible because an offending sinner has now accepted God's offer of forgiveness and salvation from their sins (**Acts 10:43; 26:18; Eph. 1:7**). In fact, the desire to now forgive those who offend or hurt a believer is an evidence that God has transformed a person's heart (note **Matt. 6:15; Luke 6:37**).

17 18

19 20

21

8. Carefully consider **Colossians 3:13**. *Why* should the follower of Christ forgive others? *How* should a believer forgive others?

22

Why: _____

23

How: _____

through his name.”

17. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 6:19:15 pm

Acts 26:18 to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

18. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 6:22:07 pm

Eph. 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,

19. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 8:21:00 pm

Matt. 6:15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

20. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 8:17:23 pm

Luke 6:37 ¶ “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;

21. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 8:25:46 pm

Col. 3:13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

22. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 8:43:57 pm

A believer should forgive others because God has forgiven them.

23. Dr. Andrew Corbett

15 June 2022 at 8:45:48 pm

A believer should forgive others, the way God has forgiven them. This requires that we consider how a person is forgiven by God: (i) God’s forgiveness is not automatic; (ii) A person receives God’s forgiveness by seeking God to be forgiven. Therefore, while we can forgive someone who has wronged us by not seeking revenge upon them; the “transaction” of forgiveness can only take place if they come to us seeking our forgiveness.

24. Dr. Andrew Corbett
15 June 2022 at 9:13:49 pm
Ephesians 4:32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

25. Dr. Andrew Corbett
15 June 2022 at 9:41:01 pm
consequences

26. Dr. Andrew Corbett
15 June 2022 at 9:44:55 pm
trust

27. Dr. Andrew Corbett
15 June 2022 at 9:59:45 pm
transacted

The Apostle Paul makes the same point about *how* to forgive others to the [24] Ephesians (Ephesians 4:32). Unfortunately, there are times when someone may hurt or offend you without regret. It is unlikely then that the offender would ever seek your forgiveness. But even if they do not, or ever do, you are still obligated to forgive them from your heart by relinquishing your right to hurt them back.

What Forgiveness Does Not Do

[25] (1) Undo all c _____ s.

[26] (2) Instantly restore t ____ t.

The expression, *forgive and forget* is rarely anyone's story. Hurt can be [27] forgiven but it can only be t _____ d when there is a genuine apology. How to be forgiven — and how to transact forgiveness — will be what we will look at in our next study.