

## FIRST STEPS WITH JESUS

### Lesson 14: FORGIVENESS

**Purpose:** To understand and learn the importance of forgiving others, results of not forgiving others, help to know how and why we can forgive others.

#### I. FORGIVING OTHERS

##### A. Christians should forgive others who sin against them the same way that God forgave us while we were yet sinners.

1. **Ephesians 4:32** - 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.** NKJV
2. **Romans 5:8** - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. NKJV

##### B. Forgiving people who wrong us is acting like God and Jesus.

1. **Luke 23:34** - 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. NKJV

#### II. UN-FORGIVENESS ONLY HURTS YOU.

##### A. Un-forgiveness is like you eating the poison and expecting the other person to die. Not forgiving others only hurts yourself and can possibly destroy you.

##### B. Here Are 3 Passages That Reveal How Un-forgiveness Can Hurt You.

1. **Ephesians 4:27-32** - 27 **nor give place to the devil.** 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. **30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.** NKJV
  - a. When we do not forgive we grieve the Holy Spirit and open a door to the devil to steal, kill, and destroy.
  - b. If we do verse 32 we can do verse 31.
1. **Hebrews 12:14-15** - 14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; NKJV
  - a. Un-forgiveness will cause bitterness which will cause trouble and make us become defiled.
2. **Mark 11:25** - 25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. NKJV
  - a. Un-forgiveness will hinder our faith and prayers.

### **III. HOW CAN YOU FORGIVE OTHERS?**

**A. By Love** - We can forgive others because the Holy Spirit lives in us to help us live in the God kind of love.

1. **Romans 5:5 & 8** - 5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.....8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. NKJV

**B. By Faith** – As Christians we obey God by faith. We act on God’s Word by faith.

1. We simply believe God’s Word: God causes all things to work together for me, I overcome evil with good, no weapon formed against me will prosper, God protects me and takes care of me.
2. So we chose to forgive them by faith even if we do not feel like it.
  - a. Do not wait until you feel like forgiving the other person.

**Conclusion:** God wants you to forgive others as He forgave you. Another aspect of walking in love is forgiving others. Not forgiving others will hinder the blessings and promises of God in our life. Un-forgiveness will also open the door for the Devil to come in to steal, kill, and destroy. We need to keep the door for the Devil closed by forgiving others every time someone does something wrong to us. Let us remember Jesus Christ, how he suffered greatly to the point of death yet Jesus forgave those who crucified Him. Make a choice to walk in love, faith, and forgiveness.

**Is there someone you need to forgive?** Let’s go to the Father in prayer right now and forgive that person.

READING ASSIGNMENT: Matthew 18:21-35

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COMPREHENSION TEST: For instructor with answers

1. Why should we forgive people who sin against us?

Because not forgiving others only hurts ourselves, grieves the Holy Spirit, and opens the door for the Devil to come steal, kill, and destroy.

2. Who are we acting like when we forgive people who wrong us?

We are acting like God and Jesus.

3. What effect does bitterness and un-forgiveness have upon our lives?

Causes trouble and makes us become undefiled.

4. Do we have the ability to forgive people who wrong us?

Yes. Because God's love is in us and because we have faith.

**FIRST STEPS WITH JESUS**

**Lesson 14: FORGIVENESS**

COMPREHENSION TEST: For new believer.

1. Why should we forgive people who sin against us?

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2. Who are we acting like when we forgive people who wrong us?

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3. What effect does bitterness and un-forgiveness have upon our lives?

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4. Do we have the ability to forgive people who wrong us?

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