

Please be sure that you know this week's memory verse and have finished the devotions. Talk to God today about the difficulties you have forgiving others (or yourself!). Ask God to give you His perspective on forgiveness and grow in your understanding and practice of forgiveness.

Prayer Updates

Hospitalized & Surgeries

Aleeta Zapata — RCU, more testing

Alicia Vierra (age 8, Larry & Leslie Douglass' granddaughter) — facial reconstruction surgery

Bob Gubser — edema

Cathie Stewart — back surgery

Diane Burnham — foot surgery 6/12

Ellie Tefertiller — emergency gall bladder surgery

Eugene Warren — diagnosis unknown

Gerry Zamzow — undiagnosed

Linda Brandt — heart complications, ICU

Norma Moniodis — cancer complications, RCU

Recent hospitalizations/surgeries: Bob Tefertiller, Earl White, Glen Olives, Sharon Christa, Sue Moyer

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center. **Subscribe to the Prayer Update:** www.tlc.org/profiles

stories

4 PARABLES OF JESUS



Part 2: How to Forgive From the Heart (Matthew 18:21-35)

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, '...Not seven times but 77 times!'" *Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)*

Why I Must Learn to Forgive:

1. Because _____

"A king... wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ...A man who owed him **ten thousand talents** was brought to him. The servant's master took pity on him, **canceled the debt** and let him go." *Matthew 18:23-27*

"But when the servant went out he found one of his fellow servants who owed him **a hundred denarii**. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.'" *Matthew 18:28-30*

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, **just as in Christ God forgave you.**" *Ephesians 4:32*

2. Because _____

"Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servants **just as I had on you?**" In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured..." *Matthew 18:33-34*

"See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no **bitter root** grows up to cause trouble and defile many." *Hebrews 12:15*

3. Because _____

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you **unless you forgive** your brother from your heart." *Matthew 18:35*

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." *Matthew 5:7*

Do I need to forgive anyone?

The _____ test

The _____ test

The _____ test

Two options for dealing with my hurts:

I can either _____ them or _____ them!

Daily Meditations

Monday

Look back over the notes from the last weekend. What was your reaction to the message?

Why is it hard to forgive at times, while at other times it's easy?

Take the three "tests" at the end of the notes: Who do you need to forgive in your life?

Thank God today for His forgiveness. Ask God today for His strength so that you can begin the process of forgiveness.

Tuesday

Please read Matthew 18:21-35. Offenders in Jesus' day were forgiven up to three times. A fourth offense didn't need to be forgiven. With that in mind, how do you suppose Christ's initial hearers responded to this teaching?

How do you feel about this teaching?

- Jesus must be exaggerating
- If I did this, people would just walk all over me
- If I forgive, I feel the offenders are somehow winning
- I feel confused: Does this mean I am to let people hurt me again and again?
- Other:

How can you forgive someone repeatedly and yet not encourage irresponsibility?

How does your loving God forgive you and yet not encourage your irresponsibility?

How is that a pattern for our forgiveness of others?

Thank God today for His forgiveness. Ask God to help you truly forgive and not bear grudges. Think of those you need to forgive and specifically ask God for strength to let those resentments go.

Wednesday

Please read Psalm 103:1-11. In order to forgive, it is helpful to understand how much we have been forgiven ourselves. According to this passage, in what ways does the Lord show you kindness?

How does understanding this help you to extend forgiveness to others?

Which of these things – sympathy or forgiveness, etc. – is hard for you to show to others?

Thank God today for the kindness He has shown to you. Ask Him to help you show the same kind of kindness to others.

Thursday

Please read Hebrews 12:15. What kind of root does this refer to?

How have you seen bitterness act like a root in your life?

What are the effects of the root of bitterness?

If bitterness is so destructive, why do we sometimes nurture it?

How can a root of bitterness be "pulled up"?

Thank God today He does not hold a grudge. Ask God to reveal to you, and then help you remove any root of bitterness in your own life.

Friday

Please read Colossians 3:13. What are the two things these verse tells us to do?

What does it mean to "bear with" others?

- When they are rude
- When they make mistakes
- When they disappoint me
- When they make foolish choices
- When they irritate me
- When they try to hurt me

Now go over the list above and check off the situations where God has had to "bear with" you. Why is this helpful to remember?

Why should I forgive, according to this verse?

How is this similar to the parable Jesus told about the unforgiving servant?

Ask God to help you realize what He has done for you, and to help this motivate you to "bear with" your friends and family – and others – this week!



Memory Verse

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."
Ephesians 4:32