

Week 4 – Forgiveness

January 24, 2021

Daily Devotionals



We know everyone here is at a different place in their faith and growth looks very different on a case-by-case basis. What does it look like, though, to grow from wherever we are now to continually making disciples? **What's Next** will help us to unpack and highlight possible next steps.

This week, we're looking at forgiveness.

Jesus invites His followers to both receive His forgiveness and to offer forgiveness to those who have wronged us. He modeled forgiveness on the cross as He asked the Father to forgive those who crucified Him (Luke 23:34). Throughout the New Testament, as we will see, Jesus invites us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

Sometimes, when an offense is simple and easily overlooked, forgiveness comes freely. At other times, when we've been deeply wounded, it takes a bit more time and intentionality with Jesus to truly forgive. Lysa TerKeurst says, "Forgiveness is both a decision and a process. You make the decision to forgive the facts of what happened. But then you must also walk through the process of forgiveness for the impact those facts have had on you."¹ The decision to forgive doesn't fix all our damaged emotions. At times we need only to be willing to forgive, inviting Jesus to do the rest of the work in us.

This week, we cannot possibly *finish* the work of forgiveness, but with Christ, we can *begin* it.

Scriptures to consider this week:

- Monday: Psalm 103:1-14; Colossians 3:12-15
- Tuesday: Luke 7:36-50
- Wednesday: Matthew 6:9-15; Matthew 18:21-35
- Thursday: Colossians 3:1-14
- Friday: Romans 12:14-19; Hebrews 12:14-15

Questions for reflection each day:

- What resonates with you from these verses? What is God saying to you through these Scriptures? What resistance do you have to these passages? As you read these verses, what is your hope?

¹ TerKeurst, Lysa, *Forgiving What You Can't Forget* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Books, 2020), 45.

Additional questions for reflection:

- When you think about God's forgiveness toward you, how do you feel? What is stirred in you? Is this easy for you to accept? What might keep you from receiving and living in the forgiveness He has already given you?
- How do you see Jesus modeling forgiveness throughout Scripture? Do you do what Jesus did when it comes to forgiveness? What keeps you from forgiving the way Jesus did?
- How have you seen the correlation between forgiveness and love in your own life?
- What do you think it looks like to forgive from your heart?
- When have you seen someone move beyond forgiveness to blessing another?
- When have you received forgiveness from someone? How did it affect you?

Practice: Check out the Forgiveness practice this week in the group guide. This will help you prepare to share in your group. Lean into the covering your group can provide as you confess to one another. If you have deeper forgiveness work to do, consider leaning into the Forgiveness practice with Jesus. Invite someone into your process so you don't have to do it alone.