



Be Forgiving

WEEK 5 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series entitled *How To Live Through A Bad Day*, we will learn how Jesus reveals our greatest need: forgiveness.

DISCUSSION

- What is your go-to music/worship songs or genre to help you during a rough day?
- This week is about forgiveness. Have you ever had a "forgiveness fail" moment where you tried to make amends but ended up making the situation even more awkward? Share an example.

Luke 23:32-34: *Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”* It’s amazing that the Suffering Savior – in the middle of His pain – when life’s hurting most, when people are literally torturing Him – looked up to heaven and prayed – “Father, forgive these people, for they don’t even know what they’re doing to Me.”

- In what ways can we apply the example of Jesus' forgiveness to our own lives, particularly in situations where we feel wronged or hurt by others?

The Significance Of Jesus' Prayer From The Cross:

1. Jesus fulfilled prophecy.

700 years before this event, Isaiah, the prophet, prophesied that one day this would take place. **Isaiah 53:12**, speaking of Jesus: *... he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.* Jesus prayed or interceded for His offenders and fulfilled a 700-year-old prophecy with this prayer.

- Reflecting on Isaiah's prophecy and Jesus' intercession, what does this reveal about God's character and His desire for reconciliation with humanity?
- What does this moment show about the significance of prayer and intercession? How does this impact your view of intercession?

2. Jesus modeled the importance of prayer.

Jesus was a person of prayer. In fact, He taught in **Matthew 6:9:** *“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father...’”* Jesus opened His public ministry with prayer. And now, as Jesus was closing His public ministry, again, He prayed. He prayed for the most unlikely people - His enemies.

- How does Jesus' consistent practice of prayer throughout His life serve as a model for us in our own spiritual journey?
- In what ways can we integrate the principles of Jesus' prayer life into our own daily routines, especially when faced with challenging circumstances or difficult relationships?

3. Jesus revealed man's greatest need.

It's interesting to note what Jesus didn't pray for. He didn't pray – "Be blessed or be healed." He was praying for our most important need – forgiveness of sin. Jesus came so that we could be forgiven and have life. That's why Jesus said this at the Last Supper, sitting around with His closest friends. He held up the communion wine and He said in **Matthew 26:28**, ***"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."*** Jesus revealed our greatest need...forgiveness. Jesus is teaching us, When someone hurts you:

A. Pray for those who hurt you.

Jesus says in **Luke 6:28**: ***"Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."*** He also says in **Matthew 5:43-44**: ***"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,"***

- Give an example of a situation in your life where you found it challenging to pray for someone who had hurt or wronged you. How did you get past the hurt and make the choice to pray for them?

B. Pray for reconciliation.

Reconciliation means to bring back to peace and harmony. We should pray for this healing when we experience broken relationships. Paul says in **Romans 12:17-18**: ***"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."*** It may not be possible—we can't control how others respond. But we have a responsibility to do what God is calling us to do and make an effort to restore relationships.

- In your own experience, can you share a time when you made an effort to reconcile with someone despite the challenges, and what lessons did you learn from that experience?
- Reflecting on Romans 12:17-18, what practical steps can we take to actively pursue reconciliation and peace in relationships, even when it seems difficult or impossible?

Colossians 3:13 says, ***"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."*** Even when we don't want to forgive, we should remember to forgive as God forgave us.

LIFE CHALLENGE

Think about the broken relationships in your life. First, choose to forgive them the way that Jesus has forgiven you. Second, pray and ask God to give you wisdom on how you should attempt reconciliation.

PRAY TOGETHER