



F O R G I V E N E S S

STUDY GUIDE

This guide is an invitation to participate in a journey of forgiveness over the next five weeks. Use this guide individually, as a family, or in your small group to see what we can discover about forgiveness through stories from the Bible, as well as put into practice what we are learning.

WEEK 1: WHAT IS FORGIVENESS?

Reflect

- What does forgiveness mean to you?
- Which do you find more difficult: to forgive others who have offended you or to ask forgiveness from those you have offended? Why?

Read

- **Read Matthew 18:21-35 (Unforgiving Servant).**
- Read it a second time, perhaps in another version of the Bible.
- Retell the passage in everyday words.

Observe

- What words or phrases got your **attention**?
- What do we learn about **forgiveness** from the **unforgiving servant**?
- What do we learn about **forgiveness** from the **master**?
- What might this passage tell us about the **life** Jesus desires for us?

Apply

- What is Jesus saying personally to you through this passage?
- What are you going to do about it? (Be as specific as possible.)

Before Next Week

- Read through the **Forgiveness Guidelines**.
- Complete steps 1-3 of the **Forgiveness Exercise**.



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WEEK 2: ACKNOWLEDGING AND NAMING

Reflect

- How did the forgiveness exercise go this past week? What did you find most challenging?
- What was something new you learned about forgiveness this week?

Read

- **Read Luke 15:11-24 (Prodigal Son).**
- Read it a second time, perhaps in another version of the Bible.
- Retell the passage in everyday words.

Observe

- What words or phrases got **your attention**?
- What can we learn about **forgiveness** from the **father** in this passage?
- What can we learn about **forgiveness** from the **son** in this passage?
- What might this passage tell us about the **life** Jesus desires for us?

Apply

- What is Jesus saying personally to you through this passage?
- What are you going to do about it? (Be as specific as possible.)

Before Next Week

- Complete steps 4-5 of the **Forgiveness Exercise**.



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WEEK 3: CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

Reflect

- How did the forgiveness exercise go this past week?
- Share about your experience of forgiving someone. What did you learn?

Read

- **Read Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus).**
- Read it a second time, perhaps in another version of the Bible.
- Retell the passage in everyday words.

Observe

- What words or phrases got your attention?
- What can we learn from Jesus about forgiveness in this passage?
- What can we learn about confession and repentance from the life of Zacchaeus?
- What might this passage tell us about the life Jesus desires for us?

Apply

- What is Jesus saying personally to you through this passage?
- What are you going to do about it? (Be as specific as possible.)

Before Next Week

- Read through the **Making Amends Guidelines.**
- Complete steps 1-3 of the **Making Amends Exercise.**



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WEEK 4: RECONCILIATION

Reflect

- How did the making amends exercise go this past week? What did you find most challenging?
- What new thing did you learn about making amends this week?

Read

- **Read Genesis 50:15-21 (Joseph).**
- Read it a second time, perhaps in another version of the Bible.
- Retell the passage in everyday words.

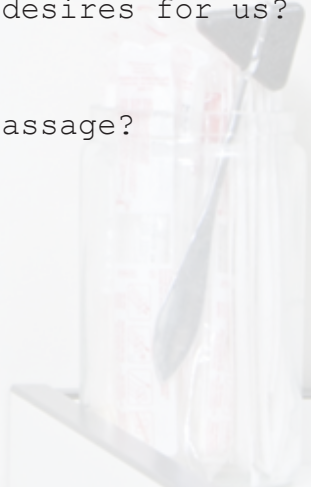
Observe

- What words or phrases got your **attention**?
- What do we learn about forgiveness from Joseph's brothers in this passage?
- What do we learn about **reconciliation** from the life of Joseph?
- What might this passage tell us about the **life** Jesus desires for us?

Apply

- What is Jesus saying personally to you through this passage?
- What are you going to do about it?

Before Next Week

- Complete steps 4-5 of the **Making Amends Exercise**.
 - Read the **Forgiveness Q & A**.
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WEEK 5: NEXT STEPS

Reflect

- How did the making amends exercise go this past week?
- Take turns sharing about your attempt to make amends with someone. What did you learn?

Read

- **Read Philemon 8-25 (Onesimus).**
- Read it a second time, perhaps in another version of the Bible.
- Retell the passage in everyday words.

Observe

- What words or phrases got your attention?
- What can we learn from Paul about forgiveness from this passage?
- What can we learn about forgiveness from the life of Onesimus?
- What might this passage tell us about the life Jesus desires for us?

Apply

- What is Jesus saying personally to you through this passage?
- What are you going to do about it? (Be as specific as possible.)