

APPLICATION QUESTIONS
Applying this message to everyday life

1. Share a story of personal forgiveness that you either participated in or observed. What impression of this event sticks with you?
2. If you could go back in time, what would you like to ask your parents or grandparents forgiveness for? Is there anything you would like to extend forgiveness to them for?
3. There is a big difference between forgiving as something you do, versus forgiving because that is who you are. What can you think of that would make you a more forgiving person?
4. Spend time in prayer for each other and to ask God to help you obey this command.

REALationships
#574 – Forgive Offenders
Matthew 18:21-35

GateWay Bible Church
October 1, 2017
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Forgive Offenders

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

Matthew 18:21-22

Understanding this Command

There can be no _____ without forgiveness, but there can be _____ without reconciliation.

Forgiveness can be emotional, but it is not an emotion. Forgiveness is an act of the _____.

The key to forgiveness is to stop focusing on what others have done _____ you, and focus instead on what Jesus has done _____ you.

“To be a Christian means to forgive the _____ because God has forgiven the _____ in you.” CS Lewis

Your _____ may be God’s _____.

1. Poor _____ (1 Cor 11:30)
2. Financial _____ (Ps 39:11)
3. Family _____ (Eph 5:21-33)

Benefits of Being _____

1. To draw us closer to _____ (Ps119:71)
2. To purify our _____ (1 Peter 1:7)
3. To experience grace and _____ (2 Cor 12:9)
4. To increase our compassion for _____ (2 Cor 1:6)
5. To build a confident _____ (Rom 8:28)
6. To experience God’s _____ (Gen 50:20)

GETTING-TO-KNOW-ME QUESTIONS

Sharing time to get your group started

- A. What is the longest road trip you've taken? Where was it to and how far was it?

- B. Name your longest lasting friend (someone that you still have regular contact with). How did you meet him/her?

- C. Would you say you grew up in home that modeled forgiveness well? Explain.

LIFE GROUP HOMEWORK

Jot down a brief answer to the following questions

Quick Review

1. As you reflect on last week's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?

2. In Genesis 50:15-21 we read of the account of Joseph forgiving his brothers for selling him into slavery. List a few observations of how Joseph models for us the true heart of forgiveness.

3. What principles about forgiveness does the Lord's Prayer teach us? See Matthew 6:9-15 and Luke 11:2-4

4. Jesus came to "take away the sin of the world." John 1:29. Does this mean all are saved? Forgiveness can be freely given, but what conditions of the heart are necessary for it to be received?