

## EXTRA! Ideas for Adults – Dealing With Messy Relationships Session 3

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Forgive

The Point: Relationships grow deeper with forgiveness.

BIBLE  
STUDIES  
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### Get Into the Study

Use the following information to introduce Question #1.

Citizens across the globe are acutely aware of how hard nurses, nurse practitioners, doctors, researchers, and other medical personnel are working to help persons sick with COVID-19. Many medical teammates live apart from their families to protect them from getting the virus. Appreciation parades and chalk messages abound to thank these workers. But following one of these parades someone chose to slash the tires of approximately 22 cars belonging to nurses and doctors at New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital.

Ask: *How would these twenty-two, bone-weary, health professionals feel when finding slashed tires at the end of their shifts? What might their first responses have been? How would forgiveness fit into a scenario like this? How might we become part of God's actions to right this wrong, to be the time and resources of God?* Direct attention to Question #1 to discuss what it cost these health care workers to fix this in addition to money.

Information for this post was gleaned from:

<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nurses-tires-slashed-outside-ny-hospital-suspect-arrested/2369768/>

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/e2-80-98it-e2-80-99s-disgusting-e2-80-99-cars-belonging-to-doctors-nurses-found-with-slashed-tires-outside-hospital/ar-BB12sDx1>

### Study the Bible

Use the following information to supplement Question #3.

Following several high-profile church shootings, almost 2 in 3 pastors say their congregations have taken precautions to protect worshipers from an active shooter. Fatal shootings have taken place at Christian churches and other religious sites such as an Amish school. "Churches are some of the most common gatherings in any community, and that makes them targets," said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research. Churches seek to prepare for what they hope will never happen. On December 29 three people died in church

during a shooting in White Settlement, TX. The gunman was shot by a member of the church's security team.

Ask a volunteer to read this quote from page 98 of the *Personal Study Guide*: “*Forgiveness is the stuff of healthy marriages, healthy families, and healthy churches. Relationships grow when we let go of a hurt, a wound, or a critical remark.*” *How does preventing violence remove obstacles to forgiving others? What actions in this Baptist Press report might be the godly actions our church needs? How do we find a way to forgive if we can't prevent something? Discuss Question 3.*

Information for this post was gleaned from:

<http://www.bpnews.net/54231/churchgoers-divided-over-armed-congregants>

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## **Additional Questions**

### **Icebreaker**

- Who has taught you the most about forgiveness?
- What comes to mind when you think of the word "forgiveness"?
- When have you seen an incredible act of forgiveness in person recently?

### **Matthew 18:21-22**

- How would you summarize Jesus' answer to Peter's questions?
- Do you tend to be quick or slow to forgive others?
- When do you find it most difficult to forgive others?

### **Matthew 18:23-27**

- How would you describe grace to someone new to Christianity?
- How are grace and mercy connected to forgiveness?
- What do you find most remarkable about the parable in these verses?

### **Matthew 18:28,32-33**

- Since Jesus has forgiven us, what hinders us from forgiving others?
- What do you find most remarkable about the servant's actions against the one who owed him money?
- How would you describe God's grace toward you to someone new to Christianity?