

## **The Power of Forgiveness**

Big idea: Because God has forgiven us, we are empowered to forgive everything and everyone.

### **Forgive Reality**

Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV - He has made everything beautiful in it's time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Romans 8:28 NIV - And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

Revelation 21:5 NASB - And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." and He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

### **Forgive Yourself**

Romans 3:23 NIV - For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Psalms 51:4 NIV - Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

1 John 1:9 NIV - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Forgiveness isn't optional. Relationship is. ~ Christian Bowers

Self forgiveness is accepting that you are human, but choosing to keep becoming more like Jesus ~ Jeanne Mayo

John 10:10 NIV - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Jeremiah 31:34 ESV - ...for I will forgive their iniquity, and will remember their sin no more.

## **Forgive Others**

Matthew 6:14-15 NIV - For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Forgiveness is setting the prisoner free and realizing the prisoner was you. ~ Mark Batterson

Ephesians 4:2 NIV - Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, and bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:32 NIV - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

One of the most important muscles you can ever exercise in your Christian life is your forgiver muscle. Grow it as strong and resilient as possible. ~ Jeanne Mayo

Romans 12:19 NIV - Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Colossians 3:13 NIV - Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

Luke 17:3-4 NLT - "If another believer sins, rebuke that person; then if there is repentance, forgive. Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks for forgiveness, you must forgive."

Forgiveness is one of the most beautiful words in the human vocabulary. How much pain and unhappy consequences could be avoided if we all learned the meaning of this word! ~ Billy Graham

**Who in your life is it time for you to forgive?**

**Next Steps**

Memorize: Matthew 6:14-15 - For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive other their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Think about: Am I holding a grudge or resentment towards someone that I need to let go of?

Action: Go and forgive them, this week.