I. The Opposite of Forgiveness
(BWACS= Bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander)
Put away bitterness because of its impact on:
A. _________________________________
B. _________________________________

II. The Call to Forgiveness
A. Our forgiveness is grounded in G______________ forgiveness.
B. Forgiveness requires two adjustments to our focus.
   1. From our ____________________ to God’s________________
   2. From myself and my hurts to others and their _______________

III. The Standard of Forgiveness, which is C______________, answers 4 questions:
A. _______________ ________________?
B. How____________________ a sin should be forgiven?
C. How______________________________?
D. How______________________________?
Scripture References:

Ephesians 4:22 Lay aside the old self.
Ephesians 4:24 Put on the new self.
Ephesians 4:25 Lay aside falsehood, and speak truth.
Ephesians 4:28 Put away stealing and labor.
Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. 32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.
Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.
Proverbs 22:24-25 Do not associate with a man given to anger; Or go with a hot-tempered man, 25 Or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself.
Matthew 18:23-27 The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. 25 But since he did not have the means to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. 26 So the slave fell to the ground and prostrated himself before him, saying, “Have patience with me and I will repay you everything”. 27 And the lord of that slave felt compassion and released him and forgave him the debt.
Matthew 18:28-31 But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and he seized him and began to choke him, saying, “Pay back what you owe.” 29 So his fellow slave fell to the ground and began to plead with him, saying, “Have patience with me and I will repay you.” 30 But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. 31 So when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened.
Matthew 18:32-35 Then summoning him, his lord said to him, “You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?” 34 And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. 35 My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart.”
Colossians 3:12-13 As those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
Matthew 18:21-22 Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven”.
Psalm 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
Hebrews 10:17 Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.
Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; 24 And see if there be any hurtful way in me.