"The Necessity and Beauty of Forgiveness"  
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Ephesians 4:32; Luke 17:3b-4  
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Introduction:
A. Forgiveness is not _______ for us.
B. God is a __________ God and He expects us to be a __________ people.
C. Nothing good ever results from being ____________.

I. The Story (2 Samuel 16, 19)
A. David is at one of the _________ places of his life.
B. A man named _________ came out of nowhere to add to his misery.
   1. He threw __________ and __________ at David.
C. Abishai’s suggestion was to let him _____ off the man’s _____.
D. David decided to ________ himself to _______.
E. After David came back into power, Shimei was the first in line to _______ and ask for _______.
F. Abishai suggested that David _______ him to _________.
G. David declared to Shimei, “You shall ______ ______.”

II. The Application
A. What is forgiveness?
   1. “Surrendering my right to ______ you for ______ me.”
   2. “Giving up the _____ of a different or better ________.”
B. Three suggestions to help us with forgiveness:
   1. Remember how ______ we have ________ forgiveness.
   2. Understand where the offender is ______ ________.
   3. Realize that extending forgiveness is what is best for ______ and for ______.

“We are most like __________ when we ________.
We are most like __________ when we ________.
We are most like __________ when we ________.”  
(William Arthur Ward, Thoughts of a Christian Optimist)