

SC Church
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Weird Let Them Go

What are some of the hard things you have had to deal with in your life?

Big Idea: Followers of Jesus forgive others regularly

- CS Lewis - Everyone says forgiveness is a lovely idea, until they have something to forgive.

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-14 NIV – ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, ¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us today our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, ⁵ but deliver us from the evil one.’ ¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

What does it mean to forgive?

- To release the person who has offended you. To cancel the debt.
 - Romans 12:18-19 NIV – ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ 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.

What happens when we harbor unforgiveness?

- Stress, anger, lack of sleep, suffering, replaying over and over what someone has done, bitterness, resentment, even sickness.

Why do we forgive?

- Jesus forgave us of everything – past, present, and future
 - Hebrews 8:12 NIV – ¹² For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.
- Forgiveness is a command...not a suggestion.
 - Matthew 6:14-15 – If we want to be forgiven by God...we forgive.

- Jesus modeled forgiveness for us (on the cross)
 - Luke 23:34 NLT – ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

What happens when we forgive?

- We have freedom to move on
 - Forgiveness is the only way to sever the suffering (Lysa Terkeurst)
- We move toward healing
 - Psalm 147:3 NLT – ³ He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.
- Forgiveness doesn’t necessarily mean reconciliation
 - Forgiveness is a command, reconciliation is encouraged as it is possible.
 - Romans 12:18 NIV - ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
 - Forgiveness is unlimited and unconditional
 - Matthew 18:21-22 NLT – ²¹ Then Peter came to him and asked, “Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?” ²² “No, not seven times,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven!”
 - Reconciliation is limited and conditional
 - Matthew 18:15-17 NLT – ¹⁵ “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. ¹⁶ But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

How do we forgive those who have hurt us?

- Remember how much we have been forgiven
- Rely on the grace of Christ to help us let go of disappointments

- Think through the consequences of not forgiving others

What challenges are you in the area of unforgiveness?

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

Next Steps

- Memorize: Ephesians 4:32 NIV
- Evaluate: Am I harboring unforgiveness toward anyone?
- Action: Write down how you have been offended, choose to forgive the person who caused the offense, then shred it.