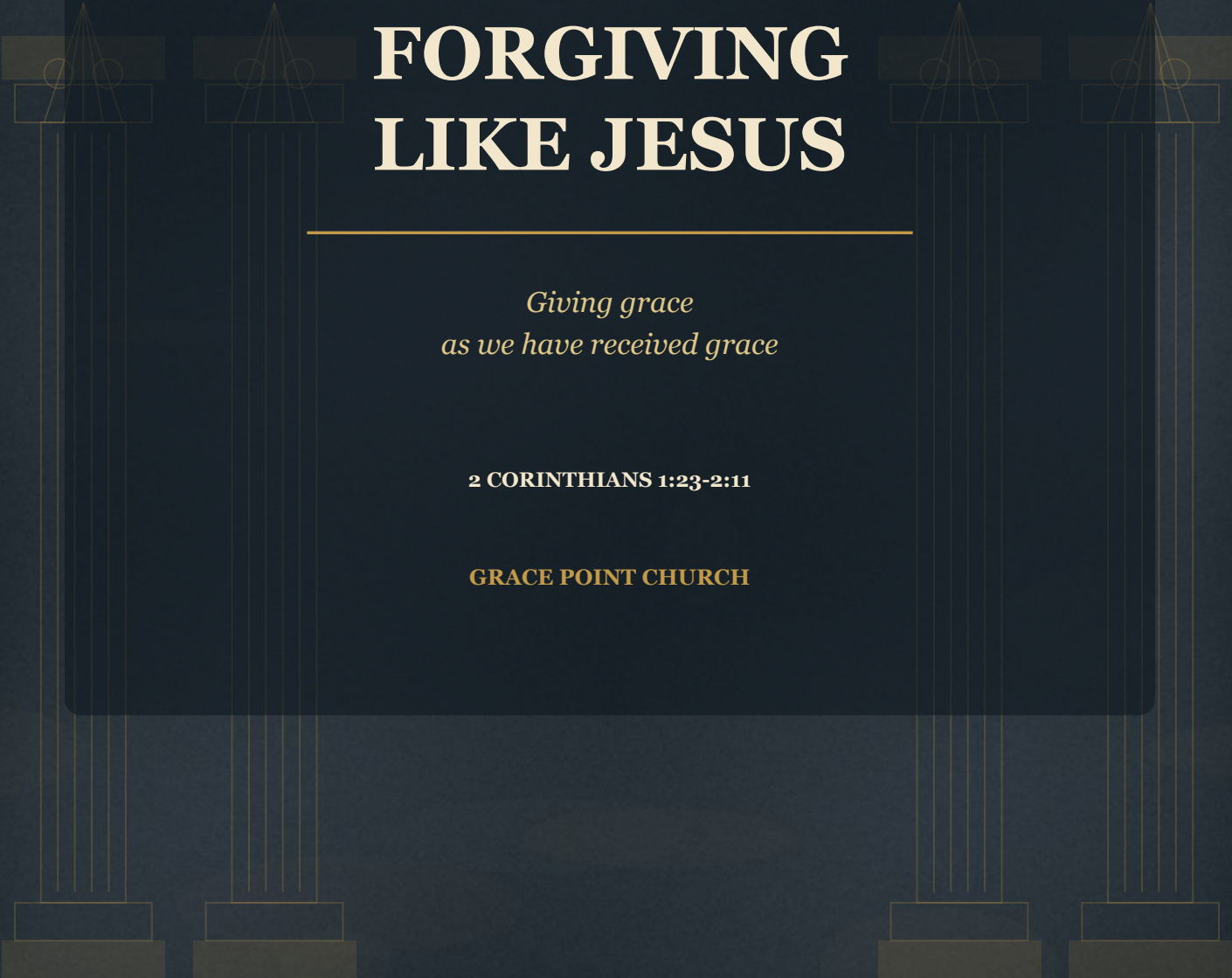




A COMPANION WORKBOOK FOR 2 CORINTHIANS



FORGIVING LIKE JESUS

*Giving grace
as we have received grace*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:23-2:11

GRACE POINT CHURCH

THE BIG IDEA

Forgiveness is the commitment to give grace to those who could never deserve it because that is what Jesus has done for us.

Forgiveness is one of the most important and hardest things God asks His people to do. It is not natural; it is supernatural. In this passage, Paul gives the church a Spirit-inspired guide for fighting for forgiveness instead of being divided by misunderstanding, distrust, and bitterness.

KEY SCRIPTURE

"You should rather turn to forgive and comfort him... So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him."

2 CORINTHIANS 2:7-8

Whose name or face comes to mind when I say, 'I don't know if I will ever be able to forgive them'?

BRING THE HURT INTO THE LIGHT

FORGIVENESS REVEALS FAITH

The Corinthians had doubted Paul, listened to false teachers, and blamed those who stirred up conflict. Paul calls them not only to repentance, but also to forgive those who repented. Their obedience here would reveal whether their faith was truly reshaping their relationships.

Where there is no forgiveness, there is no real faith.

SATAN'S DIVIDING PATH

MISUNDERSTANDING

We assume motives and stop listening.

DISTRUST

We interpret every action in the worst way.

UNFORGIVENESS

We cling to pain and the church divides.

Where can I see this progression in my heart or relationships? What step toward gospel obedience am I resisting?

WHAT MY RESPONSE REVEALS

COMMIT TO SHARE JOY

Paul changed his plans to spare the Corinthians another painful visit. He was not trying to control their faith; he was willing to work with them for their joy. True forgiveness seeks restoration even when that work is personally costly.

COMPETITION

- I need to win
- Their victory feels like my loss
- My reputation stays central

COLLABORATION

- I desire restoration
- Their joy becomes my joy
- God's glory stays central

"We work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith."

2 CORINTHIANS 1:24

Would I rather win, or have this relationship restored? What costly step could make space for conviction, repentance, and shared joy?

A STEP TOWARD SHARED JOY

COMMIT TO SHOW LOVE

Paul's painful letter came from anguish, tears, and abundant love - not revenge. When the offender repented, Paul urged the church to forgive, comfort, and reaffirm their love so that excessive sorrow would not overwhelm him.

"I wrote to you... not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you."

2 CORINTHIANS 2:4

1

SPEAK TRUTH

Love tells the truth even when it may be misunderstood.

2

SEE THE BIG PICTURE

Love looks beyond the personal offense to what God is doing.

3

REFUSE TO GET EVEN

Love forgives, comforts, and actively reaffirms relationship.

Where am I struggling to love like Jesus: speaking truth, seeing the big picture, or releasing the desire to get even?

LOVE I CAN PUT INTO ACTION

SURRENDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Paul refused to turn personal attacks into a story about himself. He forgave for the church's sake in the presence of Christ. He knew that Satan's first move is to take the spotlight off Jesus and turn it toward our wounded pride.

Am I responding like this is about me - or about Jesus?

- + The sin that hurt me grieves and dishonors Jesus even more.
- + The cross is greater than the offense I am tempted to make ultimate.
- + When I lift my eyes to Christ, I can give the grace He has given me.

Where have I kept the spotlight on my pain, reputation, or circumstances? What changes when I place Jesus back at the center?

LIFT MY EYES TO CHRIST

GIVE GRACE

The word Paul uses here describes an active giving of grace. Forgiveness is not something that finally happens after enough time has passed and the pain has faded. It is a gospel commitment made possible by the grace of Jesus.

Forgiveness is not merely refusing revenge. It is giving undeserved grace.

THE GOSPEL SHAPE OF FORGIVENESS

01 SHARE JOY

Work toward restoration with God's glory as the common goal.

02 SHOW LOVE

Speak truth, see the whole story, and refuse to get even.

03 SURRENDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Make the conflict about Jesus instead of yourself.

What would active grace look like in this relationship? What commitment is Jesus inviting me to make?

GRACE I CAN GIVE

DISCUSSION & PRAYER

- 01 Why are forgiveness and faith inseparable in this sermon?
- 02 Where has competition replaced collaboration in a relationship?
- 03 Would you rather win, or see the relationship restored?
- 04 Which expression of love is hardest: truth, perspective, or refusing revenge?
- 05 How does keeping Jesus in the spotlight change the offense?
- 06 What grace have you received from Jesus that you can now give?

PRAY: Ask Jesus to increase your faith, expose bitterness, restore shared joy, and produce the Spirit's fruit as you give the grace you have received.

NOTES AND PRAYER

WALKING IN FORGIVENESS

How does the cross of Jesus give me power and hope to forgive?

Choose the commitment Jesus is leading you to make right now.

1

SHARE JOY

Take one step toward healing instead of trying to win.

2

SHOW LOVE

Speak or act with truth, mercy, and no desire to get even.

3

SURRENDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Name how this conflict can point back to Jesus.

You are established, anointed, sealed, and held by the power of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness may feel impossible, but Jesus has not left you to do it alone.

MY NEXT GOSPEL STEP