



Week 3: Sorry, Not Sorry - Forgiving Others **February 29-March 1, 2020 | Tim Harlow**

This weekend, Pastor Tim closes the series with thoughts on how we do the work of forgiving others.

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Talk about your "favorite" experience with a telemarketer or salesperson. What did you learn about yourself from that experience?
2. Talk about one area of life where you are most likely to be offended. What makes that area so sensitive for you?

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. Your life is too short and your calling too great to be offended by something small. (Craig Groeschel)
2. To forgive we must identify the person we're angry with, determine what they owe us, and then cancel the debt.
3. Time does not heal all wounds.
4. Forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting.
5. Forgiveness is a decision lived out as a lengthy process. (Larry Osborne)
6. Extending forgiveness to others demonstrates we've grasped forgiveness from God.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: Proverbs 10:12, 17:9, 19:11, Jeremiah 31:34, Matthew 18:15-22, Luke 23:34, Ephesians 4:2, Colossians 3:13-14, Hebrews 12:15

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that resonated with you. What made it stick with you?
2. If you have heard all three sermons in this series, talk about the thought or insight that has been most helpful to you. You can always catch up on the messages via our [website](#).
3. Read Luke 23:32-38. This passage is part of Luke's crucifixion story - the details of Jesus' execution and eventual resurrection. Luke is writing volume 1 of 2, with the book of Acts being volume 2 to his story of Jesus and the expansion of the church. Luke is writing to an audience that is primarily Roman Christians; those who didn't grow up in the Jewish faith but are Gentiles who believe in Jesus.
4. Jesus is between two "criminals" in this passage, and he is being executed for crimes he did not commit. Talk about the connection between the pain of being wounded by another person and being held accountable for crimes that you didn't commit. How are they the same? How are they different? What does it mean to you that Jesus understands what it feels like to be unjustly wounded?
5. Talk about how Jesus' prayer that God forgive the ignorance of the people crucifying him affects you (Luke 23:34). What do we have to keep in mind when praying this kind of prayer for those who hurt us?
6. The rest of Luke's account shows people ridiculing and taunting Jesus as he is dying. Talk about how the details in 23:35-38 only amplify Jesus' prayer that they be forgiven. What kind of strength do we need to honestly pray that same prayer?

- *forgive them for they don't know what they do* - every day for those who hurt us?

7. If you have a chance, return to this weekend's message and listen to Katie's story. With that story in mind, who is your "truck driver"? In other words, who is the person who wounded you and where are you in the process of forgiving them?
8. As you close your group time, bring that person to mind and bring Jesus' prayer to mind: "Father, forgive him/her/them, they don't know what they do." Make a plan to pray this prayer whenever that person comes to mind this week.

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for your grace. Not just the grace that forgives us, but the grace we use like fuel to live the life you have for us. Help us. Help us forgive people that we'd love to see punished. Help us not to hold that debt over their head but to make a daily step towards letting that hurt go. Help us to forgive, but also help us to remember in a healthy way. Give us the strength to step away from them if we need to, and don't let us forget that you know what this feels like. Thank you for stepping into this world so we can know that you get it. You get it. We love you.

Amen.