



# THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID

## THINGS JESUS NEVER SAID, PART 1: YOU DON'T NEED TO FORGIVE THEM

Forgiveness is one of the most difficult commands Jesus ever gave—and one of the most freeing. Yet, many of us carry deep pain caused by others' betrayal, lies, or abuse. Forgiveness sounds great until it's *our* wound that needs healing. Jesus challenges our assumptions and excuses about forgiveness. He never said, "You don't need to forgive them." In fact, He taught that forgiveness is not optional—it's essential for our own freedom. So how do we forgive the unforgivable? And why would God ask us to?

**BIG IDEA: Forgiveness for those who hurt you may not change them, but it always changes you.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When you were younger, what did you and your siblings or friends fight over the most?
2. What kind of behavior do you find the most annoying, online or in person?
3. Why do you think we sometimes take offense over small things?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, [read Matthew 6:9-13](#).*

<sup>9</sup> Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. <sup>10</sup> May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today the food we need, <sup>12</sup> and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. <sup>13</sup> And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. [Matthew 6:9-13 \(NLT\)](#)
5. Jesus connects our forgiveness from God directly to how we forgive others. Why do you think Jesus tied these two together? What does it reveal about God's heart for relationships?
6. *With your Bible or YouVersion, [read Matthew 6:14-15](#).*

<sup>14</sup> "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins. [Matthew 6:14-15 \(NLT\)](#)
7. What grudges are you having difficulty letting go?
8. Why does the thought of forgiving others often provoke an emotional response?
9. How do these verses challenge your understanding of forgiveness? What emotions do you feel when you hear that God's forgiveness is tied to how we forgive others?
10. Have you ever realized you were holding onto unforgiveness longer than you thought? What effect did it have on your peace, your relationships, or even your faith?
11. *With your Bible or YouVersion, [read Matthew 5:23-24](#).*

<sup>23</sup> "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, <sup>24</sup> leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. [Matthew 5:23-24 \(NLT\)](#)
12. Why does forgiveness matter so much to God?
13. Why do you think Jesus prioritized reconciliation *before* worship? How does unforgiveness affect our ability to connect with God?
14. Kim said that unforgiveness poisons our own soul—it's like living in a prison of offense. Who suffers more: the offender or the one holding the grudge?

15. What does “forgiveness is the key that sets you free” mean to you personally?
16. Forgiveness doesn’t mean pretending something didn’t happen or that it didn’t hurt. What do you think it means to “hurl it away,” as Kim described from the Greek meaning of forgiveness? How does that image help you understand forgiveness differently?

## MOVING FORWARD

You may never get an apology. The person who hurt you might never change. But when you forgive, *you* change. Forgiveness is not saying what they did was okay—it’s saying, “I won’t let this control me anymore.” Jesus calls us to forgive because He wants to set us free from the prison of offense and bitterness. Don’t wait for the other person to make the first move. Start the process today.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

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