



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Choosing Forgiveness in the Face of Tragedy

Speaker: Donnie Thomas

Highlighted Scripture

Matthew 5:43–44

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”

Jeremiah 29:13

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

Discussion Questions

- 1. How do you typically respond when anger rises in your heart after tragedy or injustice?**
- 2. What makes it so difficult to obey Jesus’ command to love your enemies?**
- 3. How does Jeremiah 29:13 encourage us to seek God’s strength when forgiveness feels impossible?**
- 4. What does it look like in practice to “pray for those who persecute you”?**
- 5. How can choosing forgiveness protect your heart from bitterness?**

Reflection Challenge

- **Take time this week to pray for someone who has wronged you or someone you find difficult to forgive.**
- **Reflect on how Jesus forgave His enemies, even from the cross, and ask Him to help you follow His example.**
- **Write down your feelings of anger, grief, or bitterness, and then surrender them to God in prayer.**

Prayer Prompt

Lord, I confess that it is hard to forgive when I see evil and injustice. Yet Your Word calls me to love my enemies and pray for those who persecute me. Give me the strength to seek You with all my heart, to trust Your justice, and to show grace even when I don't feel like it. Help me to walk in forgiveness and to reflect Your love in a broken world. Amen.

