



## Pt. 4 : Different Forgiveness

Questions for further study and application:

**Day 1** Read Romans 12:2 MSG. In today's culture, it's to fight back and want to hurt whoever hurt you in return. As you're hanging on to unforgiveness, you become bitter and put up walls. Instead, it's time to look at forgiveness differently. The challenge is to love them despite the hurt they caused. Think about how loving others this way will help you to be a better friend, a better spouse, or a better leader. This means, that when you hear words that cut you to your core; forgive it. When you feel betrayal that creates an ache in your heart; forgive it. It may take time, yet when you work towards fixing a problem, start with love and watch walls begin to come down, and tensions begin to fall away.

**Day 2** Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a. In these verses, Paul is describing God's perfect, never-ending, unending, love for us. This is how He wants us to love others, but sometimes, there are people in our lives that make it difficult or painful to love them. Albert Einstein said, "In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." The next time you find yourself hurt, frustrated, or angry, try to think of it as an opportunity to show that person you forgive them and that you love them. Focus on rising up and loving as though you've never been hurt. Some people in your life may always seem to be negative or ugly, however, you don't know what may be happening behind the scenes in their life. They may need just one person to show them unconditional love and that person can be you.

**Day 3** As humans, when we're hurt, it's unlikely the first thing we want to do is to offer forgiveness. We want to hunker down and hold on tight to our anger and bitterness. When you forgive quickly, it may feel like you're saying what happened wasn't a big deal. Ask yourself this, what if the person that offended you doesn't know they've hurt you or even care that they've hurt you? You being angry doesn't affect them at all. Actually, it's you that suffers the greatest impact. Read Matthew 6:14-15. Free yourself from your grudges, and let forgiveness rewrite your future. Meditate on these verses today, and ask God to show you where to offer forgiveness. Trust Him to fight those battles for you.

**Day 4** In order to take the first step towards forgiveness, you must be open to it. Read Matthew 18:21-22. Peter is asking Jesus how many times should we forgive someone and Jesus' response is 490 times a day. So, we should always be forgiving, just as God is always forgiving you. We're all sinners, we all make mistakes, and we all deserve forgiveness. When you're open to forgiveness, you don't have to welcome that person back into your life or that everything has to be made right. It just means taking that first step of healing. Ask God to give you the strength and grace you need to forgive.

**Day 5** Holding a grudge is hard work. Keeping score and being angry takes its toll on you. Read 1 Corinthians 13:5. Love keeps no records because forgiveness is not about keeping score. It's about losing count. We like to keep score because it makes us feel better; like we have control. Consider this, God isn't holding back His forgiveness for your sins, then why do you think you should hold back on forgiving? Start by taking small steps. Send a text message or write a note. It may take some time, but eventually you will begin to feel a release from holding on to unforgiveness. Who do you need to love like you've never been hurt? Ask God to help change your heart, and begin to take steps towards experiencing the freedom forgiveness brings.

## What's New?

At Waters Edge, we know that the best week of the summer is Student Camp. This is the perfect time for them to have a ton of fun, encounter Jesus, and experience life change like they never have before. Registration closes June 10. Register your student at [watersedgechurch.net/studentcamp](http://watersedgechurch.net/studentcamp).