

Southside Baptist Church
VBS Parent's Survival Kit (Encouragement)
Marriage Imperatives – Session 1

1. Introduction:
 - a. So glad you are here!
 - 1) Regardless of the seasons of life you may be in, be ready!
 - b. A simple exercise.
 - c. The reason for the emphasis.
2. Marriage/Family Imperative 1 – Forgiveness
 - a. Set the stage:
 - 1) Number 1 marriage killer - _____
 - 2) To much hurt = no forgiveness.
 - 3) Forgiveness reflects the controlling presence of GRACE in our lives urging us and enabling us to let go of what we cannot hold on to.
 - a) We are vessels filled with the GRACE of God and forgiveness is the visible, touchable, fruit of His Spirit in our lives.
3. What is your theology of forgiveness?
 - a. Is it a lie or the truth?
 - 1) True or False – It takes time to heal before I could ever forgive.
 - 2) True or False – When I by faith forgive, God is free to heal my hurt.
 - 3) Matthew 6:12 – “forgive” – release, cancel
 - 4) Matthew 6:12 – “debt” – something is owed another.
4. Do I release or no release? Matthew 18:21-22
 - a. Peter's question:
 - 1) What do you do with the person who has hurt you over and over?
 - 2) When is it all right not to forgive?
 - b. The norm:
 - 1) Peter's question revealed that he misunderstood forgiveness because like us sometimes, he assumed forgiveness is for the benefit of the offender only.
5. Two sides of forgiveness:
 - a. The side of forgiveness: Matthew 18:23-27
 - 1) What do you see here?
 - b. Forgiveness:
 - 1) Forgiveness isn't about earning, deserving, repayment, getting even, it is about GRACE! It is GRACE received and GRACE released.
 - c. Unforgiveness: Matthew 18:28-30
 - 1) What do you see here?
 - d. Sin is like a debt:
 - 1) When you hurt someone, you take something from them.

- 2) Forgiveness changed my life, has it yours?
- e. Do you see it?
 - 1) Your salvation – you had the 10-million-dollar debt you could not pay.
 - 2) Offenses between people – 20-dollar debt.
- 6. The Darker side of unforgiveness:
 - a. What is happening that you may not see?
 - 1) Holding on to unforgiveness is dangerous. Why?
 - a) It is a “place” for the enemy to work.
 - b) Ephesians 4:27 – “neither give place to the devil”
 - b. Place?
 - 1) “place” – “topos” – refers to the ground or a specific spot of location.
 - c. “Stronghold”
 - 1) II Corinthians 10:4 – “stronghold” – can speak of a castle.
 - d. How does all this start?
 - 1) We choose to believe a lie.
 - a) The person who hurt you does not deserve to be forgiven.
 - b) What happens in the land where unforgiveness lives?
 - c) Forgiveness – By FAITH choosing to RELEASE, to CANCEL the debt and CHOOSING not to remember it against them again.
- 7. Can I ever trust again?
 - a. The choice is up to you, but it is possible.
 - 1) Rebuilding the bridge of trust.
 - 2) Ephesians 4:31-32 –
 - 3) The Great Christian Revolutions come not by the discovery of something that was not known before. They happen when somebody takes radically something that was always there.” Richard Niebuhr
 - b. Do you need to go back where we started this evening and start again?

Part 2

- 8. Foundational Imperative 2 – Love and Respect
 - a. Text Ephesians 5:21-29
 - b. Foundational Principle –
 - 1) Verse 21 –
 - 2) Relationally it is how we serve one another – Philippians 2:3
 - c. Wives: Ephesians 5:22-24; 33
 - 1) Submit/Respect –

d. Husbands: Ephesians 5:25-33

- 1) "husbands love your wives" is contrasted with Christ love for the Church.
- 2) How did He accomplish this?
 - a) Jesus knew who He was, His Purpose and His Father's Plan.

e. An example of what can happen when men are missing these foundational truths.

f. A simple definition of a man: Identity

- 1) Reject Passivity –
- 2) Accepts Responsibility –
- 3) Leads Courageously –
- 4) Expects the Great Reward –
- 5) Do I see these in Jesus' life?

g. Purpose:

- 1) I Corinthians 10:31 –

h. Plan:

- 1) Husbands loving their wives is a lifelong journey
- 2) Where do I start?

i. Two things we need to figure out:

- 1) What is my definition of love?
 - a) Love is my SURRENDER given in a COVENANT PROMISE based upon the Love of God. I have come to know the Love of God, to see the Love of God, to feel the Love of God and it is this Love in me that I desire to give to you.

- 2) How did Jesus love His Church by giving Himself for it?
 - a) Think about what you see from Jesus' life.

j. Where do these thoughts come from?

- 1) Led by the Spirit –
- 2) Self-examination – I ask myself these questions.

9. Take Away:

- a. Is there any unforgiveness in my life toward my spouse or toward others?
- b. What is my theology of forgiveness?
- c. Husbands – recognizing that loving your wife as Christ loved the church is a journey, where does God find you at in your understanding and obedience to this command?
- d. Wives – recognizing that respecting your husband is a journey, where does God find you at in your understanding and obedience to this command?