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MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

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MAKE DISCIPLES

FIND FREEDOM THIS EASTER THROUGH FORGIVING

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,¹⁹ and that the time of the Lord’s favour has come.” **Luke 4:18-19 NLT**

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. **Romans 8:11 NLT**

THE IMPACT OF UNFORGIVENESS

1. HEALTH PROBLEMS

Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. **Hebrews 12:15 NLT**

2. SPIRITUAL BLOCKAGES

Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. **Hebrews 12:15 NLT**

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Matt. 6:14-15 NLT

3. COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. **Hebrews 12:15 NLT**

4. DEMONIC FOOHOLDS

And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ for anger gives a foothold to the devil. **Ephesians 4:26-27 NLT**

HOW TO FIND FREEDOM THIS EASTER

- **FORGIVE IN FAITH NOT UPON FEELINGS**

4 Even if that person wrongs you seven times a day and each time turns again and asks forgiveness, you must forgive.” 5 The apostles said to the Lord, “Show us how to increase our faith.” **Luke 17:4-5**

- **RELY UPON THE FORGIVER, JESUS**

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. **Luke 23:34 NLT**

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. **Philippians 2:13 NLT**

- **MAKE FORGIVING A WAY OF LIFE**

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behaviour. Instead, be kind to each other, tender hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you. **Ephesians 4:31-32 NLT**

THE PRACTICE OF FORGIVING

1. I acknowledge that _____ hurt me and it wasn’t fair.
2. I forgive _____ for the hurt they caused me
3. I release _____ from any judgements or expectations I have of them.
4. I confess that I have felt bitterness/anger/_____ and I repent of this Lord, I receive your forgiveness.
5. I choose now to pray that you, Father, would bless them and I give them into your hands.

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Why is the need to practice forgiveness universal?
2. What might be the impact if we do not forgive?
3. Which key to finding freedom most impacts you and why?
4. Who do you need to forgive? Ask your group to help you move forward now, and use the prayer, “The Practice of Forgiving”.