

NewSpring Church Groups Study Guide

No Perfect People Allowed — Week 5 — Forgive & Live

How do we forgive like Jesus? The Bible says that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. As recipients of such undeserved forgiveness, how can we allow anger toward a friend or family member grow into bitterness? Is it possible to forgive and forget? Is saying, “I forgive, but I can’t forget,” just another way of saying “I will never forgive”? And once we forgive, is trust automatically restored? These questions must be wrestled to the ground. In Matthew 6:14-15 the Bible says, “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Are we forgiving others as Jesus forgave us?

- Why do you think that not forgiving others damages your relationship with God?
- Bitterness has been described as drinking poison and expecting someone else to die. How can bitterness damage or destroy you?
- Can you think of an example in your life where forgiveness has been given, but trust was not immediately restored?
- Read Matthew 5:22 and Ephesians 4:26-27. Is anger a sin? Can it be? How does anger give the devil a foothold in your life?
- Read 1 John 2:9. In view of God’s mercy in your life, why is un-forgiveness not an option? What roll does pride play when trying to forgive others?
- Read Luke 7:41-48. How big was your sin debt? What has Jesus done for you?
- Read Mark 12:29 - 31. How do you love your neighbor “as yourself”?

When we proactively reach out to people who have wrong us, we are imitating God. Despite our sin, God reached out to us and sent His one and only Son to forgive us and pay the penalty for our sin. Simply put, we love Him, because He first loved us. Are there people in your life to whom you would be reconciled if only you would humble yourself and reach out to them first in forgiveness?