

**Christian Family Value System**  
**Preparing Future Generations to Evangelize the World**  
Calvary Academy for Christian Development Lesson Outline  
**Christian Biblical World View**

Date: OCTOBER 24, 2021

Theme: MATURATION

Subject: The Importance of Forgiveness (Pardoning the Trespasser)

**DEVOTIONAL READING:** Matthew 18: 21-34

LESSON TEXT: Matthew 6:14-15

**MEMORY VERSE:** bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. **(Colossians 3:13)**

### *Lesson Purpose*

***The Theme of this lesson:*** To learn how to give with genuine forgiveness

***The Life Question is:*** How to follow the teaching of Jesus about forgiveness

***The Biblical:*** To understand the importance of forgiveness

***The Impact:*** Forgiveness is choosing not to dwell on the offense or continue to rehearse it in your thoughts

### **INTRODUCTION**

As Christians, a part of our responsibility which displays maturation is forgiving people. In the Lord's Prayer we pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...." Often we pray that prayer without giving any thought to what we are really saying. Are we really asking God to forgive us based on how we forgive those who have sinned against us? That change the game doesn't it? We all want to be forgiven by God; yet, we find it difficult to forgive others.

### **WHAT'S THE CORE MESSAGE?**

Forgiving others is a sign of spiritual maturity, it is a sign that you are growing by the grace of God. As Christians, the world has us under a microscope to see how we respond to life. We have Jesus Christ as our model of forgiveness. Remember, when the church ceases to forgive, the church ceases to be the church. Have you ever hurt somebody and wished to be forgiven? Do you spend time thinking about how someone has wronged you? How do you forgive? People through the ages have wrestled with similar questions. Jesus and Christianity have changed the world with teachings of forgiveness.

### **Questions**

1. Is forgiveness a choice or an emotion? Why or why not? Did Jesus put price tags on forgiveness?
2. After you forgive someone, is it ok to continue to struggle with bitterness or anger?
3. Why is it difficult to forgive those who hurt you? Should you trust immediately after forgiveness?
4. How could extending forgiveness heal a relationship? How might it heal the other person? How might it heal you??
5. How are we able to forgive and forget when we are hurt? How does unforgiveness affect a person physically and spiritually?

**Soul Searching** : We often want to put conditions on forgiveness. We say things like: They need to show remorse for what they have done to me; They must come in humility and ask me for forgiveness; They must feel the same pain that I am feeling right now; They must acknowledge to me the awfulness of what was done and show me how bad they feel about it.

**What forgiveness does mean:** We let go of anger and resentment; we become more empathetic and reasonable; We understand the greatness of forgiveness from God; We understand that God is both just and the justifier; We allow the wounds of the offense to heal over time. Ephesians 4:32 says: *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

**Conclusion** : The forgiveness Jesus is talking about in our lesson today is a restoration of our fellowship with God not our salvation. Our relationship with God is broken when we chose not to forgive someone of their trespasses against us. The subjunctive mood of the verbs here makes it very clear that forgiveness is a choice we must make. It is a choice with certain outcomes, in other words, God does not make us forgive, and we must voluntarily choose forgiveness. For some things that happen to us we may have an easier time with forgiveness. But sometimes, we are hurt so deeply, that forgiveness seems impossible.

**Please read: for next week's lesson:** Join Zoom Class: Click on the link below <https://zoom.us/j/778347900>