

“I FORGIVE YOU”
(Understanding and Practicing Forgiveness)
Lk.17:3-10

Three of the most important words we will need to hear and must be ready to say are the words “I Forgive You.” In today’s text Jesus helps us to understand what those words mean by showing us that...

I. Forgiveness is a **COMMITMENT (Lk.17:3a)
(Forgiveness Involves a Promise)**

A three-fold promise that:

- 1) I will not bring your **SIN** up to your face
- 2) I will not bring it up to **OTHERS**
- 3) I will not **DWELL** on it

II. Forgiveness is **CONDITIONAL (Lk.17:3-4)
(Forgiveness Involves Repentance)**

If no repentance, then:

- 1) **PRAY** for their forgiveness
- 2) Be **EAGER** to extend forgiveness
- 3) Know that God has a **PURPOSE** in the offense

III. Forgiveness is **COMMANDED (Lk.17:5-10)
(Forgiveness Involves Duty)**

“I FORGIVE YOU” (Luke 17:3-10)
(Understanding and Practicing Forgiveness)
Small Group Discussion Guide

1. **Read and discuss Eph.4:32.**
How can we follow God’s example as a model for our forgiving of one another? (Consider Is.43:25 & Jer.31:34b)
2. **Read and discuss Luke 17:3-4.** Why do you think the Lord commands us to “rebuke” (confront graciously) a brother who has sinned against us? What can happen when we neglect to speak to a brother about an offense?
3. In what sense is forgiveness conditional? Is having a “forgiving spirit” toward others conditional? Why or why not? What should we do if a person who has sinned against us refuses to repent? (Consider Jesus in Luke 23:34)
4. Read and discuss Luke 17:5-10. Why did the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith? Why do you think Jesus responded to their request by telling the parable of the servant? What should we do if we are having a hard time forgiving someone?

Digging Deeper:

How do the following verses help us to better understand what God means when He says He will “remember” or “not remember” something? (Gen.8:1; 1 Sam.15:2-3; Ps.25:7a; Is.43:25; 3 John 10)

The Bible teaches that repentance is necessary to obtain forgiveness. Read the following passages and jot down how repentance was evident in each case (2Kgs. 22:19; Ezra 10:1; Job 42:6; Lk.15:21; 18:13).

Take some time to review the three-fold promise of forgiveness on the front-side of this sheet (sermon notes). Prayerfully evaluate how well you are keeping these promises.