**The Prayer Series: Wk 4 – Forgive**

* Have you ever had something stolen from you before? What was it?
* Did you ever have something you really loved taken away (at any age)?
* Do you remember what it felt like?
* How is being hurt like be robbed?
* If you could think of something that is unforgiveable - what would it be?

**quick review**

* Looking back at this week’s teaching what was most challenging, helpful, or interesting to you?

**Luke 23:33-34 -** When Jesus was beaten, tortured and crucified - His first qwords on the cross were a pray of forgiveness for those who did it.

* Do you think you could do that? Why - why not?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

**Three Lies about Forgiveness:**

* + Some things God won’t forgive!
  + Some things we can’t forgive!
  + Sometimes we have to fight fire with fire.
* Have you ever (or do you now) believe one of these? Which one? Why?

**The Truth about Forgiveness**

1. Satan is the accuser and the one who does not forgive

**Revelation 12:10**

* When you start holding grudges where does that come from?

1. Only one sin is unforgiveable

**Matthew 12:30-32**

* What do you think the unforgiveable sin is?
* Is that really an issue of forgiveness?

1. God loves to turn his enemies into friends and family

**Romans 5:8, 10, Ezekiel 33:14-15, 1 Timothy 1:15-16**

* Can you think of an evil person that you think is beyond God?
* Have you ever known a wild sinner who became a Christian?

1. Forgiveness is not an option – it is a requirement

**Matthew 6:12-15, Mark 11:26**

* According to the verses, what happens when you don't forgive?

1. Forgiveness starts with a look in the mirror

**Isaiah 55:6-7, Colossians 3:13**

* What does that mean - look in the mirror?

Remembering both God’s incredible provision of forgiveness and our need for it can help us become more generous in forgiveness.

* How can the following verses help us grow in our ability to forgive?

**Isaiah 53:6, Isaiah 59:1-3 -** we are all in need of forgiveness

**Jeremiah 33:6-9 -** God has the power to forgive sin

**Colossians 3:12-15 -** We are called by God to be people of forgiveness

**Ephesians 4:30-31 -** we are still in need of forgiveness

* Do you see any evidence or symptoms of a lack of forgiveness in your own life toward others or yourself?
* "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover the prisoner was you" - How does forgiving others free us?

**Romans 12:18-20**

* What is the most challenging aspect for you when it comes to not seeking your own justice or revenge?

**TAKING IT HOME** : Review Taking it home assignment.

Using an index card - write on the top the words of Jesus: “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”. Then write the names and a word that describes what they did that hurt you so badly. When you are finished, prayer for each person by name and with God’s power forgive and write - Forgiven - by each name. Then rip it up and let it go.

Jesus tells us that it’s never right to return “evil for evil” and seek our own revenge. That’s easy to say, but hard to do because it can leave us feeling like the other person “got away with it.”

* What can you learn from David’s actions in **1 Samuel 24:1-13?**
* How might the following verses help you forgive others or yourself?

**Genesis 1:26-27, Romans 7:1-25 & 8:1-39, Philippians 2:3-4**

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**Luke 23:33-34**

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Matthew 12:30-32

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Ezekiel 33:14-15, 1 Timothy 1:15-16

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