



Forgive Us – Message 4

Announcements

Fight Groups // Men, host a Fight group, starting March 26th. This study is a 5-week journey that will equip you to fight the battles you must win; the ones that determine the state of your heart, the quality of your marriages, and the spiritual health of those you love most. Go to ChurchoftheKing.com/mensnight to learn more.

Warm-up

Share something from when you were younger that bugged you in your family (e.g., someone hogging the bathroom, taking out the garbage, etc.)

Word and Application

Today we continue our fourth week of *The Lord's Prayer* series. We begin to see the principle of surrender in this pattern of prayer Jesus gave us. A major key to surrendering to God's will is learning how to forgive one another. Forgiveness is not a suggestion, but something that must be done because of what is released from heaven on our behalf.

Read 6:9-13 and Mark 11:24-26. Why does Jesus command us to forgive others? What are some reasons we might choose not to forgive someone?

Read Matthew 6:14-15. How does this verse make you feel? Take a moment and answer these true or false statements.

True or False

Forgiveness means forgetting.

Forgiveness means condoning what was done.

Forgiveness means the relationship is restored as if a wrong never happened.

Forgiveness is based on how you feel.

False. False. False. False. False.

Discuss why the answer to each of these statements is false.

Read Psalm 139:23-24. What does this psalmist teach us about forgiveness in this passage? Why should we ask God to *search us*?

The world teaches that forgiveness is a weakness, but the Truth is forgiveness is a sign of spiritual maturity.

Three Practical Ways to Live a Life of Forgiveness

1. Ask God to **forgive you**.

It is very humbling knowing what Jesus experienced in order for the record of sin in our entire life could be wiped clean.

Read 1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1. What assurances do these passages provide us?

2. **Forgive as often** as you want to be forgiven.

We all struggle in different areas to overcome sinful patterns. Often time, the reason we do not give up trying is that we know God never gives up on us.

Read Matthew 18:21-35. Since we did nothing to deserve being cleansed from our sin, explain how can knowing this help us forgive those whom we feel “don’t deserve” to be forgiven.

3. Maintain a **right attitude** toward others.

Keeping your heart full of love towards someone who is giving you just the opposite is impossible without the help of God.

Read Proverbs 4:23 and Matthew 5:44. What are some practical ways to apply Matthew 5:44 in difficult situations? Share a time when God helped you to show forgiveness towards your “enemy.”

Who is God asking you to release with forgiveness today? Repent to the Lord for any unforgiveness you have had towards others and make the choice to forgive. The Lord may direct you to release forgiveness through a written letter, a phone call or in person.

Prayer

Ask our Father to search your heart for any unforgiveness you have toward another person. If the Lord brings anyone to mind, take time to repent and release that individual. Then pray the Lord to practically show you any additional steps you need to take. Pray for specific needs of the group.