

# **Forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.**

## DAY 1

### Read Proverbs 10:12

When someone hurts you, it can be hard to forgive. When we're hurt, we want to hurt the other person right back. We cannot move toward forgiveness if we choose to hold onto our anger. Anger can just make things worse. Choosing to love and forgive can help us make things right.

Instead of stirring things up and making them worse, forgiveness calms everything down. In fact, forgiving someone else can change them!

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Fill in the analogies by unscrambling the words below:

FURRY is to RACCOON as SPIKY is to

.....  
E I P P O R U N C

SHAKING is to EARTHQUAKE as SPINNING

is to .....  
O O A R N T D

HATE is to FIGHT as FORGIVE is to

.....  
E A P E C

*Porcupine, Tornado, Peace*

## DAY 2

### Read Luke 19:7-8

When Zacchaeus climbed up in that tree to get a better view, he had NO idea that Jesus would stop, call him by name, and invite himself over for dinner. But that's exactly what happened!

Everyone needs forgiveness. That's why Jesus came! Jesus chose to love and forgive him. And because of Jesus' forgiveness, Zacchaeus changed from the inside out!

Ask these questions about forgiveness at your next family meal.

How did it feel when someone chose to forgive you?

What might happen to the people around you if you decided to forgive?

How does forgiveness change you when someone offers it?

DAY 3

### Read Matthew 5:7

What is mercy? Circle the answer below.

The compassionate treatment of those in distress

- a. Forgiveness, benevolence, and kindness
- b. Choosing to treat someone with compassion
- c. Letting someone off the hook

Did you circle all the answers? When someone hurts you and asks for forgiveness, you have a choice. You can choose to show mercy and forgive, or you can hold onto your anger.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told us that people who show mercy will be blessed. When we choose to forgive, to show mercy, we become more like Jesus.

Stop and thank God for forgiving you, no matter what. Ask God to help you to show mercy and compassion to the people around you.

DAY 4

### Read Luke 6:37

Have you ever followed a map at a museum or an amusement park? Without that map, you might have gotten lost!

When Jesus spoke these words about forgiveness, He was giving us a kind of map for our relationships. When you forgive instead of holding on to your anger and frustration, it frees you. Let love be the guide for your life.

What might happen if you let forgiveness and love be your map this week?

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Draw a line to complete the phrases from today's verse. Ask God to help you lead with love and forgiveness this week.

Do not Judge and you will not be found guilty

Do not find others guilty and you will be forgiven

Forgive and you will not be judged

When you forgive others,  
it can change them.