

Forgiving Them

It means they no longer owe you.

Use this devotion or let it be a starting point for a devotion based on a memory verse or two. It's all about family!



DEVOTION

1 LEARN TOGETHER

While in prison, Paul wrote a letter to the people in the church in the city of Colossae. He'd never met these people, but he knew about them. And they knew about him. They believed false teaching about Jesus. Paul used much of this letter to correct their beliefs about Jesus. He also used some of his letter to address other things happening among them.

Paul wrote this letter in AD 60, almost 2,000 years ago. You would think people would have changed a lot since then. Paul spent much of this letter stressing how they should treat each other. They weren't being kind to each other; they were being selfish. They were holding grudges. Paul reminded them how Christians were supposed to live their lives. Christians should live their lives displaying the characteristics of Jesus no matter who is in front of them or what is happening around them. They needed to be reminded of this.

2 READ TOGETHER

In Colossians 3:12-17, Paul wrote, "Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has

forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Through our faith in His death and resurrection, Jesus tells us we don't owe Him for our sin.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

3 TALK TOGETHER

While Paul teaches us how to live our lives daily, he emphasizes one of the most significant actions one person can show another person. What Jesus gives us is a catalyst for our freedom and love of others.

How would you define forgiveness?
At its basic level, forgiveness is canceling the debt someone owes you. Someone owes you something, usually for something negative they did to you, and you decide they no longer owe you anything.

There can be many emotions wrapped around the topic of forgiveness. Someone did something negative to you and it hurt you. There

were consequences to their actions. Forgiving them can feel like you're saying their actions were OK. You're not saying that. You're saying they no longer owe you for what they did to you.

When was it difficult for you to forgive someone? Why was it so difficult?

Jesus forgave us for our past sins and forgives us for our current sins. Any sin is a sin against Him and could separate us from Him. But through our faith in His death and resurrection, Jesus tells us we don't owe Him for our sin.

How does Jesus forgiving you help you forgive others?

Whom do you need to forgive?

4 PRAY TOGETHER

Ask God to help you forgive someone who has hurt you. □

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5 MEMORIZE TOGETHER

► **September 3:** "Then Peter approached him and asked, 'Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?' 'I tell you, not as many as seven,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven'" (Matt. 18:21-22).

► **September 10:** "Be on your guard. If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and comes back to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4).

► **September 17:** "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your wrongdoing" (Mark 11:25).

► **September 24:** "Bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive" (Col. 3:13).

Casey & Julie Ross have liked each other for more than 30 years. And they truly like their three children. Casey, a pastor, and Julie, a teacher, love watching Atlanta sports and eating Mexican food. Casey is the author of *Life & Faith: From This Is It? to This Is It!*