

## **FORGIVENESS**

Read **Matthew 6:9-13** This is called “The Lord’s Prayer”. Jesus prayed this and gave it to us as an example of how we should pray. What does this say about “**forgiveness**”? What do you think that means?

Read **Matthew 18: 23-27**.

How should that servant feel? Should he be grateful that his debt had been forgiven?  
How should he treat others who owe him money?

Read **Matthew 18: 28-30**.

What do you think about this guy? Do you think what he did was right?  
If you saw this happen, what do you think you might do?

Read **Matthew 18: 31-34**.

Was the King right in how he treated that man? Should he just have ignored what the man had done?

Read **Matthew 6: 14-15**.

Read **Matthew 18: 35**.

Does this help you understand why we should be forgiving towards others?

Remember, [God looks at our hearts!](#)

Read **Matthew 18: 21-22**, then read “**Always Open**” on page 1053.

If we limit our willingness to forgive others, then we also limit what God will forgive us for.

Does that mean that we should always allow ourselves to be used and abused by others, and just have to forgive them? No, the Bible talks about choosing our friends wisely. (page 1437 has many passages and helps that talk about “friendship”) Example: If someone always hurts your feelings, and then says they’re “sorry”....should you continue to hang around them? You need to forgive them, but you can choose to keep your distance and stay away from them, to protect yourself from being hurt. God gave us “common sense”! Check out the book of **Proverbs**....it talks about having “**common sense**”.

But, if you don’t forgive other people, why would others forgive you?

And why should God forgive you?

Read **Luke 23: 33-34**, then read “**An offer of Forgiveness**” on page 1141.

Have you ever thought of your “sins” (the wrong things that you have done) that way? As playing a part in Jesus’ death? When we ask God to forgive us for our sins, it starts the healing process of our relationship with Him. When we forgive others who have done us wrong, does it help our relationship with them to heal? What happens if we refuse to forgive others? Does that unforgiveness turn to bitterness? Stop and think of someone you might know, who is a bitter person. Are they happy? Do you like being around them? Do you want to be like them?

Read **Psalms 19: 12-14**, then read “**Guilt**” on page 598.

Read **Acts 13: 38-39**. Through Jesus we are forgiven and made right with God.

Read **Romans 3: 20-26**, then read “**A Hard Truth**” on page 1230.

Read **Matthew 7: 12**. Do you think this is a rule that you would like to follow? Why or why not?

Read **Galatians 6: 7-8**. Can you get oranges from an apple tree? Or wheat from a corn stalk? Have you ever heard the saying “What goes around, comes around”? How you treat others, is how you will usually be treated!

Remember not to “give up” living the way that God has called you to live!