

“Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive.” – C. S. Lewis

“...and **forgive** us our **debts**, as we also have **forgiven** our **debtors**.”
Matthew 6:12

_____ Bitterness _____ destroys the _____ soul _____.

Watch out that no **poisonous root of bitterness** grows up to trouble you, corrupting many. *Hebrews 12:15*

Forgiveness is _____ canceling _____ the _____ debt _____.

Look in the _____ mirror _____.

Bear with each other and **forgive** one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave **you**.
Colossians 3:13

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving** one another, as God in Christ forgave **you**. *Ephesians 4:32*

We struggle to forgive because we lack _____ self _____ - _____ awareness _____.

“Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I **forgave** you all that **debt** because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had **mercy** on **you**?’” *Matthew 18:32-33*

You have offended God _____ far _____ more _____ than anyone will ever offend you.

“And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also, my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your **heart**.” *Matthew 18:34-35*

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.” – Lewis B. Smedes

Who do you need to **forgive**? _____

For the remainder of the summer, use these One Year New Testament questions to discuss with your small group or answer individually. Discussion questions related to the weekend message will resume this fall.

Devotional Thought

The Greek word Paul uses for “forgive” is a verb form of the word usually translated as “grace” in the New Testament. In other words, forgiveness is grace in action! When we forgive, we are “doing” grace.

In what area of your life do you need to “act out” grace? Who do you need to forgive? As you read God’s word this week, consider how you can pour out to others the grace you have received from God.

August 27/28: 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:17

When is it most difficult for you to forgive someone? For whose benefit should you forgive others? What should you do if you feel wronged by someone?

August 29: 2 Corinthians 3:1-18

In what ways can others see God’s glory reflected in your life today? In what ways do you still struggle to allow the Holy Spirit to control the things you do? How can you turn to God each day, so that He has more and more control?

August 30/31: 2 Corinthians 4:1-5:10

What do you imagine heaven will be like? How does your image of heaven influence the way you live today? In what ways do you need to detach yourself from worldly things?

September 1/2: 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:13

What difference does it make that you are counted as Christ’s ambassador? How can you personally be involved in the ministry of reconciliation? What is one way you can represent Christ to others this week?

Looking for opportunities to make an impact this summer?

Here are a few ideas...

- Nursing homes are always looking for families to come in and spend time with their residents.
- Write out thank you notes and drop them off to our police and fire departments.
- Write thank you notes for those currently serving in our military. (Drop these off at the info desk at your campus and we’ll mail them for you!)
- Do yardwork or household chores for an elderly couple in need.
- Serve your own family by doing their chores and/or helping them with an extra task.