Forgiving As the Lord Forgave You

October 18, 2026

Colossians 3:13

Main Point

Believers are called to forgive others as Christ has forgiven them, reflecting His grace in relationships.

Part 1: Master Teacher (10 Minutes)

Introduction

What makes forgiveness difficult, even when you know it is the right thing to do?

Forgiveness is not natural, but it is central to the Christian life.

Biblical Teaching

1. Forgiveness Is a Command
   - God calls believers to forgive.
   - Forgiveness reflects obedience.
   - It is not optional.
2. Forgiveness Reflects Christ's Grace
   - We forgive because we have been forgiven.
   - Grace transforms our perspective.
   - Remembering Christ shapes our response.
3. Forgiveness Restores Relationships
   - Forgiveness releases bitterness.
   - It creates space for healing.
   - It strengthens relationships.

Takeaway

Forgiveness reflects the grace of Christ and frees us to live in healthy, restored relationships.

Part 2: Group Discussion (25 minutes)

Facilitator Guidance

- Be sensitive as this topic can be personal and painful and keep the focus on grace and healing.

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding Forgiveness
    - Why is forgiveness difficult?
    - What misconceptions exist about forgiveness?
    - How does forgiveness reflect obedience?
2. Remembering Christ's Grace
    - How does remembering Christ's forgiveness help you forgive?
    - Why is grace central to forgiveness?
    - How can you keep that perspective?
3. Letting Go of Bitterness
    - What happens when bitterness is not addressed?
    - How can you begin releasing hurt?
    - What steps lead toward healing?
4. Forgiveness as a Witness
    - How can forgiveness impact others?
    - Who might be watching how you respond?
    - How can forgiveness point others to Christ?

Next Steps & Call to Action (5 minutes)

Facilitator Closing Thought:

Forgiveness is one of the clearest ways we reflect Christ's grace to others.

Action Step:

Identify someone you need to forgive and take a step toward releasing that hurt.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for healing.
- Pray for grace.
- Pray for freedom from bitterness.