

The Poisonous Root



ICEBREAKER: If you could be any celebrity, who would you want to become? Why?

OVERVIEW: Healthy, prevailing relationships are dependent upon forgiveness. Forgiveness is a foundational Christian virtue. It's foundational to who God is and to who He calls us to be. We have been greatly forgiven, and we are commanded in turn to forgive others. In this study we will dig deeper and learn more about avoiding the poisonous root of unforgiveness.

1. Read Hebrews 12:14-15. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Ephesians 4:30-32. What does this passage say that can help you grow in forgiveness?
3. Read Colossians 3:12-14. How do the insights in this passage help you to be more forgiving?
4. Read Romans 12:17-21. How does this passage relate to forgiveness? Is all unforgiveness just a form of revenge? Explain.

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5. Read Matthew 6:14-15. Why is forgiveness so important to your Heavenly Father?
6. There is a lot of confusion about forgiveness. What is it, and what is forgiveness NOT?
7. What is the relationship between forgiveness and humility?
8. Who do you struggle to forgive? Why is it so hard? How does your bitterness toward this person (or group) tend to manifest itself?
9. Refer to question 8. What would it look like for you to practice ongoing forgiveness in this relationship?
10. What steps will you take to be more forgiving?

The Last Word: Nobody will ever treat you as badly as you have treated Christ, yet he forgave all your sins. Those who practice forgiveness in their relationships show that they have a deep understanding and a heartfelt appreciation for the grace and forgiveness of God offered to them through Jesus Christ.