

## The Journey of Forgiveness

“Choosing Forgiveness”

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We live in a broken world and we are a broken people. As a result pain is inevitable. We hurt people and people hurt us. Thankfully God has chosen to forgive us. Because of this, we must choose to forgive others. When we do, we experience Him and His purpose for our lives to the fullest. It begins with a choice.

### Why Forgive

- Forgiveness sets the \_\_\_\_\_ free

*“Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord.” Romans 12:19 (NLT)*

- Forgiveness sets the \_\_\_\_\_ free

We will never look more like \_\_\_\_\_ than when we \_\_\_\_\_!

*“Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)*

### How To Forgive

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*“Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt”. Genesis 45:4 (NLT)*

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*“Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.” Colossians 3:13 (NLT)*

\_\_\_\_\_ it

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*“He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.” Psalm 103:12 (NLT)*

*“... And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.” Jeremiah 31:34 (NLT)*

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. Read 1 John 1:9. God has erased our sin. He has paid the price and forgiven us. How does this make you feel? What difference has His forgiveness made in your life?
2. When we forgive others we ourselves are set free. Have you experienced this? Share an experience.
3. Read Genesis 50:14-21. Put yourselves in the shoes of Joseph’s brothers. How do you think they felt coming before Joseph? How do you think they felt after experiencing his forgiveness?
4. Discuss the statement *“We will never look more like Jesus than when we forgive.”* Could it be that our forgiveness of others may be the first experience they have in experiencing the forgiveness of Jesus?
5. Discuss the three steps in how to forgive. Why is each important? Is there one that is more difficult for you?
6. Is there someone in your life that you need to forgive? Pray for one another, that God might pave the way for this to happen.

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