

STUDY GUIDE

How The Gospel Inspires Forgiveness

Colossians 3:12-14

Week of May 7, 2017

engage it

1.	Share a story about a time when you held a grudge that now seems silly. Why did you
	feel like your grudge was appropriate at the time?

2. Brainstorm a list of some of the reasons why it is so hard to forgive people. Which of the things on the list seem like excuses to avoid practicing forgiveness?

unpack it

3. Read Colossians 3:12-14. What attributes and attitudes does Paul say should characterize a follower of Christ? Describe which of the attributes and commands comes easiest to you and which one is the hardest.

4.	Colossians 3:13?
5.	What do you understand "bearing with one another" to mean, and how is it connected to forgiveness? Why is accepting someone else, despite their behavior, an essential element of forgiveness?
6.	How does Paul's call to forgiveness help you understand why this is an important trait for Christians to model?
7.	Why do we treat forgiveness as something we have the choice to do or not do? What are we to do if we have a complaint with someone else? How does that stand in contrast to the way you typically respond if you have a complaint against someone?
8.	Read Matthew 18:21-27. Why do you think Peter was asking Jesus this question? Why did Jesus respond the way He did?

9.	Why is it so important that we keep on forgiving and what happens when we do not forgive? Is it easier or more difficult to forgive your spouse, child, or a relative than other people? Why or why not?
10	.What does society in general say is forgiveness? How do you demonstrate that you have forgiven someone and how do you know when God has forgiven you?
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11	.When is the last time you felt overwhelmed by the mercy God showed in forgiving you? How can you make that a more frequent part of your life?
12	Is there anyone in your life that you need to forgive right now? What is keeping you from granting forgiveness?
	- grace church