



## “Forgive One Another”

*Colossians 3:12-13*

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

### Getting on the Same Page

There is a high expectation in scripture that we, as Christians, should be famous for forgiving one another. Jesus links our willingness to forgive others with how God forgives us. (Matthew 6:14-15) The apostle Paul instructs us to “forgive as the Lord forgave.” Completely, repeatedly and without holding anything back. Forgiveness is central to the Gospel.

Despite Scripture’s emphasis on it, forgiving one another can be very challenging. There’s a tendency to be incomplete or conditional in our forgiveness. Maybe expecting something in return for forgiving another, whether feeling better about the situation or being able to “move on”. Forgiving one another is not often done well.

To forgive as the Lord has forgiven means to absorb the cost. Not expecting any sort of result or repayment when we forgive another. Absorbing the cost, the damage, the pain of sin committed against us. Completely, repeatedly and without holding anything back.

### Discussion Questions

1. Discuss some difficulties or obstacles to practicing the act of forgiving one another. When is forgiveness easy? When is it hard?
2. The importance of forgiving one another in light of Matthew 6:14-15 *“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

3. How did the Lord forgive us? If we are to forgive as the Lord has forgiven us, what does that look like? Discuss the tendency to be conditional or incomplete in our efforts to forgive.
4. When Jesus forgave us, He absorbed the cost of our sins. What does it mean to “absorb the cost”?
5. Revisit the parable of the Lost Son in Luke 15:11-31 and discuss what it means for the father to “absorb the cost” and also what it means for the older brother.