

“The Journey of Forgiveness”

Scripture Text: Matthew 18:21-35; Luke 6:27-28 (also Matthew 18:1-35)

August 26, 2018

Introduction

1. What does it mean to forgive?

Forgiveness is not:

- _____ the hurt
- _____ their behavior
- _____
- _____ what happened
- _____ the consequences
- _____ them _____
- Instant _____ healing
- A _____

Forgiveness is:

- _____ the offense and pain
- _____ they incurred a _____
- _____ them from their _____
- _____ not to _____ it against them
- Letting God _____ with them
- _____ must be _____
- The _____ towards healing
- A _____

Forgiveness – “a deliberate decision to _____ the offender from their _____ to you, and to _____ your feelings of _____, _____, _____ and vengeance towards them for hurting you, regardless of whether they _____ your forgiveness.”

2. Why forgive others? How does it benefit us? (Matthew 18:32-35)

3. What practical steps can we take? (Matthew 18:32-33, 35; Luke 6:27-28)

4. Where are you on the journey of forgiveness?

Discussion

1. What does “forgiveness” mean to you?

2. Why do you think Jesus told this story to Peter? What did he want to happen in Peter’s life?

3. Based on what you learn in this story, would you say God’s forgiveness of us is limited or unlimited? Conditional or unconditional? What does it mean to you to forgive others as God forgives you?

4. When do people find it hardest to forgive others? Why?

5. If we don’t forgive someone, how might this affect us? What physical, emotional, and spiritual effects?

6. Is there anyone in your life whom you need to forgive? What’s keeping you from forgiving them? How can we help each other forgive others?