



Learning to forgive

THE SERIES AT A GLANCE

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| 1 | Part 1 | How many more times? |
| 2 | Part 2 | Joseph and his brothers |
| 3 | Part 3 | Receiving forgiveness ourselves |



3 meetings of 8 minutes



Understanding what forgiveness means – and why it sets us free



Preparation: 5 min



How to use the series: Use one part in each of three meetings in a row. At the start, briefly recall the previous part.

1 Part 1: How many more times?

Bible: Matthew 18:21–22

Peter asks Jesus: "How often must I forgive someone who wrongs me? Is seven times enough?" Jesus answers: "Not seven times, but seventy times seven." Forgiveness is not a points account. But forgiving does not mean the wrong did not matter or that you have to put up with everything – if someone is harming you, get help from a person you trust. Forgiving means: I hand the bill over to God.



Question: Who do you find it hard to forgive right now?



Prayer: *Lord Jesus, forgiving is sometimes really hard. Help me to hand the bill over to you. Amen.*



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2 Part 2: Joseph and his brothers

Bible: Genesis 50:15–21

Joseph's brothers had sold him when he was a teenager. Years later Joseph is powerful – and the brothers are afraid he will take revenge. But Joseph weeps and says: "You intended to harm me, but God turned it into good." He provides for them and their children. Forgiveness breaks the cycle of hurt and revenge.

 **Question:** Where do you see cycles of "tit for tat"?

 **Prayer:** *God, make me brave enough to break the cycle of revenge – with your help. Amen.*

3 Part 3: Receiving forgiveness ourselves

Bible: Luke 15:20–24 and Colossians 3:13

The younger son has squandered his inheritance and comes home ashamed. But the father runs to meet him, hugs him and throws a party. That is how God is with us. Paul writes: "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Whoever knows they have been forgiven finds it easier to forgive others.

 **Question:** What does it mean to you that God forgives you?

 **Prayer:** *Father in heaven, thank you for running to meet me and forgiving me. Help me to treat others the same way. Amen.*

For leaders

- Never put young people on the spot: ask open questions, nobody has to answer.
- Let one of the young people read the Bible text aloud.