



## MODULE 3 - Student Lesson

### WHAT ABOUT ME? WHAT DO I DO WITH ANGER AND DISAPPOINTMENT?

#### Lesson 4

#### Forgiving vs. trusting

##### Preview

These are the main points that this lesson will cover:

1. God forgives us completely and instantly.
2. God wants us to forgive other people the same way that He forgives us—completely and instantly.
3. We cannot do anything to earn God's forgiveness. It is a free gift that He has given us, thanks to the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.

Many of us tend to misunderstand forgiving and trusting. The first point to remember is that forgiveness is an act and not a feeling. Many of us withhold forgiveness from someone who has harmed us because we are still holding onto the anger or sadness from the hurt. We don't feel like forgiving. Instead, we hold a grudge. Another approach we might take is withholding forgiveness until that person has paid for what he or she did.

The bottom line is that God forgives us completely and instantly, and He commands us to do the same. We can trust that He holds none of our sins against us. If we start holding a grudge we not only will continue to feel miserable, but we also will be sinning. How do we expect someone to pay for his own sins when Christ suffered and died in our place for our sins?

Distrusting someone who has sinned against us is very different. It is okay to have specific boundaries in place that protect us from being sinned against or harmed by others. We have to forgive, but we don't necessarily have to trust the individual that we are forgiving. We don't have to put ourselves in harm's way just because we have forgiven someone.



Please remember the most important thing about God's Word: we have complete, 100% forgiveness from our sins and can trust that the Lord will forgive ANY sin that we confess to Him. He does not require any payment for our sins. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died as full payment for our sins. Through faith in Him our hope is secure. That hope is eternal life in heaven. Trusting in these promises that God reveals to us in His Word will also help us to get rid of the anger and disappointment we've experienced in our lives. Instead of anger, God's forgiveness will motivate us to show love and compassion to others, demonstrating faith to one another.

**Read** Ephesians 2:8,9 (p. 1236): <sup>8</sup>God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. <sup>9</sup>It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it.

1. By what are we saved? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What can you do to save yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

**Read** Matthew 18:21-35 (pp. 1049,1050): <sup>21</sup>Peter came to Jesus. He asked, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus answered, “I tell you,



not seven times, but 77 times. <sup>23</sup>The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to collect all the money his servants owed him. <sup>24</sup>As the king began to do it, a man who owed him millions of dollars was brought to him. <sup>25</sup>The man was not able to pay. So his master gave an order. The man, his wife, his children, and all he owned had to be sold to pay back what he owed. <sup>26</sup>The servant fell on his knees in front of him. ‘Give me time,’ he begged. ‘I’ll pay everything back.’ <sup>27</sup>His master felt sorry for him. He forgave him what he owed and let him go. <sup>28</sup>But then that servant went out and found one of the other servants who owed him a few dollars. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he said. <sup>29</sup>The other servant fell on his knees. ‘Give me time,’ he begged him. ‘I’ll pay you back.’ <sup>30</sup>But the first servant refused. Instead, he went and had the man thrown into prison. The man would be held there until he could pay back what he owed. <sup>31</sup>The other servants saw what had happened. It troubled them greatly. They went and told

their master everything that had happened. <sup>32</sup>Then the master called the first servant in. ‘You evil servant,’ he said. ‘I forgave all that you owed me because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup>Shouldn’t you have had mercy on the other servant just as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>In anger his master turned him over to the jailers. He would be punished until he paid back everything he owed. <sup>35</sup>This is how my Father in heaven will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”

3. What happens if we hold a grudge against others? \_\_\_\_\_

**Read** Mark 11:25 (p. 1079): [Jesus said,] “And when you stand praying, forgive anyone you have anything against. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your sins.”

4. Who are you supposed to forgive? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What does God do for us? \_\_\_\_\_

**Read** 2 Corinthians 5:18,19 (p. 1222): <sup>18</sup>It is all from God. He brought us back to himself through Christ’s death on the cross. And he has given us the task of bringing others back to him through Christ. <sup>19</sup>God was bringing the world back to himself through Christ. He did not hold people’s sins against them. God has trusted us with the message that people may be brought back to him.

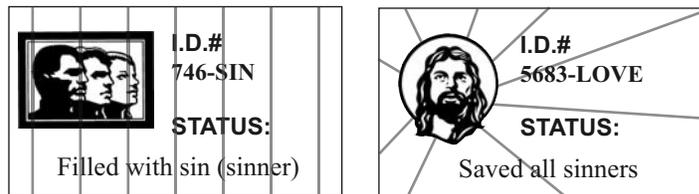
6. To whom has God brought us back? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What message do we want to share with others as a result? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Application**

Acts 4:12 (p. 1156): “You can’t be saved by believing in anyone else. God has given us no other name under heaven that will save us.”

1. What does God freely give through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ?
2. What percentage of our sins are forgiven?
3. What was the payment required for our sins?
4. What is the difference between trusting in man and trusting in God?
5. Because our I.D. tag has the name \_\_\_\_\_, we will do what He did. We will show others the same \_\_\_\_\_ He has shown us.



Let us close with prayer.

Our next meeting will be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Date Time

**Review**

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2. God wants us to forgive other people the same way that He forgives us—completely and instantly.
3. We cannot do anything to earn God’s forgiveness. It is a free gift that He has given us, thanks to the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.