

PVBC



BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE.



PEEPLES VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
Together we are becoming!
One Spirit

10:00 AM

PVBC

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE.

KJV ADULTS
Personal Study Guide
SUMMER 2022



STUDY 1:
Never Alone: The Holy Spirit in Our Lives

STUDY 2:
How to Love Your Neighbor

HOW TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Build Relationships. Love is the key building block to establishing, encouraging, and strengthening our relationships. To put it another way, our efforts to build relationships come to nothing if we do not ground our words and actions in love.

July 24 Session 1 **Who Is Your Neighbor?** (Luke 10:25-37)

July 31 Session 2 **What Does Love Look Like?** (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

August 7 Session 3 **Pray for Your Neighbor** (1 Timothy 2:1-8)

August 14 Session 4 **Honor Your Neighbor** (Romans 12:9-21)

August 21 Session 5 **Forgive Your Neighbor** (Matthew 18:21-35)

August 28 Session 6 **Share Christ with Your Neighbor** (John 1:40-49)

68 Ledford Lane
Cartersville, Ga. 30121



Session 5



Forgive Your Neighbor

**BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE
DAILY STUDY**

DAILY STUDY

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

How do you know you have a good doctor? It's not just tied to his medical school or training. A good doctor applies that knowledge well. A good doctor knows what

questions to ask, discerns what symptoms mean, and prescribes the right treatment. But we tend to value one more important thing in our medical doctors: compassion.

Hearing a medical diagnosis can be among the most anxious moments of our lives. Often, we'd rather just avoid hearing it altogether, yet we know a good doctor tactfully tells us what we may not want to hear but urgently need to hear. A good doctor gently explains the problem and gives us the diagnosis so he can prescribe the cure.

DAILY STUDY

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Jesus is more than a good doctor; He's the Great Physician. He sees what makes our hearts sick. His diagnoses are always accurate. And He provides the effective cure: Himself. With this study from **Matthew 18**, we'll consider a debilitating ailment of the soul: unforgiveness. Unforgiveness robs us of the life we're meant to live: a life of joy, peace, and love for God and others.

DAILY STUDY

THE POINT: LOVE leads us to forgive .

I think a lot of us can relate to Peter . He would blurt out what most people were thinking . The disciples had just heard Jesus's prescription for conflict resolution among fellow Christians (**Matthew 18:15-20**) . Then Peter asked a natural question: How often would he have to forgive?

Matthew 18:21-22 ²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? ²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Love forgives—and keeps FORGIVING .

With his question, Peter hoped to be generous by throwing out the number seven . It was far beyond what the Jewish religious tradition required . The Pharisees—who often added to God's law in a way that missed its entire meaning—taught that you weren't required to forgive someone more than three times .¹¹ So, by suggesting "**till seven times**" (v . 21), Peter took piety to the next level and asked if he needed to forgive someone more than double what the religious leaders prescribed .

DAILY STUDY

Matthew 18:23-27 ²³ Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

God extends forgiveness to US .

Jesus elaborated on His answer to Peter with a parable about a king and a servant . The servant owed “**ten thousand talents**” (v . 24) to his king . A single talent represented twenty years of work .¹² Therefore, this man owed 200,000 years’ worth of money! In our modern dollars, this man’s debt would be in the billions . So, imagine how irrational the servant’s response must have sounded to Peter: “**Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all**” (v . 26) . Notice the king didn’t agree to his servant’s terms . He simply forgave his servant and canceled the entire debt!

Engage

HOW MUCH DEBT?

In the space below, draw an image or symbol to represent the amount of sin debt that God has forgiven in your life .

Matthew 18:28-35 ²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. ²⁹ And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. ³¹ So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. ³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: ³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? ³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

DAILY STUDY

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In the space below, draw an image or symbol to represent the amount of sin debt that God has forgiven in your life .

God expects us to FORGIVE, even as He has forgiven us.

The servant in Jesus's parable proved that he hadn't comprehended the mercy given to him by the king . After the king forgave his debt, the servant tracked down a coworker who owed him a hundred day's wages—a minuscule fraction of what he had owed the king . The servant attacked his fellow servant, demanding he repay him in full immediately . His coworker responded with the same plea for mercy that the servant cried out to the king . But the servant's heart was cold and calloused, and he threw his coworker in jail . When the king found out, he was livid and punished the servant in full . The servant had not embraced the king's forgiveness, and therefore, his debt remained . Jail would remain his home **"till he should pay all that was due unto him" (v . 34) .**

If we have unforgiveness in our hearts, this will be our fate, as well . The one who refuses to forgive demonstrates that despite all the Bible verses he may know, he doesn't really know God . Choosing forgiveness is the only appropriate response to God's forgiveness toward us . Choosing unforgiveness proves we don't know God and have not embraced His forgiveness .

LIVE IT OUT

How will you make forgiveness a part of your life?

Seek God's forgiveness. Confess any and all sin to God and ask His forgiveness. He has promised to forgive you. **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).**

Seek other's forgiveness. To love your neighbor means forgiving, but it may also call for asking for forgiveness. If you have hurt or offended someone else, no matter how unintentionally, apologize. Seek to restore that relationship by removing the offense.

Offer forgiveness. Regardless of who may have hurt you, forgive. It may just be a matter of forgiving in your heart, but for others you may need to tell them you forgive them. Ask God for wisdom on the best way to approach the situation.

TALK IT OUT

Want to go a step further? Gather with two or three Christ-followers of the same gender. Read **Matthew 18:21-35**, then use the following summary and questions for a deeper discussion.

Forgiveness is not easy. Things often surface that remind us of the hurt or injustice we felt, and a bitter spirit can resurface. In those moments, we must remember the depth of forgiveness God has extended to us. Even as God forgave us in Christ, we are to forgive. Forgiveness is a great healer in any relationship.

How is debt a good analogy for sin?

What words would you use to describe God's forgiveness of your sin?

How do bitterness and unforgiveness impact our spiritual growth?

DAILY STUDY

DAY 1: Resist the urge to keep track of wrongs.

Read **Matthew 18:21-22**.

Jesus wasn't saying that we should forgive someone up to 490 times and then stop. He was telling us that we are to be free in our forgiveness and over-the-top generous in showing mercy. We're to forgive so often that we lose count of how many times someone has offended or sinned against us. In other words, don't keep track. Just forgive.

For us to understand what forgiveness is, it's important to understand what forgiveness is *not*.

Forgiveness is neither downplaying nor dismissing the offense. Some people think they need to rationalize or minimize other people's sins and the pain they caused. But that denies the truth, and the apostle John declared **"the truth shall make you free"** (John 8:32).

Forgiveness is not the same thing as reconciliation. Reconciliation is a worthy goal, but it takes two people to reconcile, and you are not responsible for someone else's actions. In fact, in some cases, the safe and wise thing to do is to separate yourself from the offender.

Forgiveness is not necessarily a substitute for taking other measures that are appropriate, such as pressing charges for a criminal offense or establishing measures of accountability.

DAILY STUDY

DAY 1: Resist the urge to keep track of wrongs.

Read **Matthew 18:21-22**.

Jesus's instructions on forgiveness are neither easy nor quick. They are, however, necessary for us to be spiritually whole and at peace with each other.

Who do you struggle to offer forgiveness to? In prayer, ask God to soften your heart so that you can genuinely forgive without keeping score or holding a grudge.

"God initiated mercy and paid your debt before you ever asked Him to."

JACKIE HILL PERRY

DAY 2: We display our identity in Christ when we forgive.

Read **Matthew 18:23-27**.

Jesus wasn't just teaching about forgiveness in these verses; He was also telling us who belongs in the kingdom of God . Just like this servant, we owe a debt to God that is impossible to pay . And just as the servant went before the king in Jesus's parable, we will have to settle our account before a holy and righteous God—unless Someone settles it for us .

When God forgives us, He doesn't ignore our sins . He doesn't pretend everything is fine or fudge the numbers on His cosmic ledger sheet . No, when God forgives, He absorbs our debt Himself . When Jesus—God in the flesh—died for our sins on the cross, He paid the debt of sin for all who come to Him for mercy (**Colossians 2:13-14**) .

DAILY STUDY

DAY 2: We display our identity in Christ when we forgive.

Read **Matthew 18:23-27**.

But God didn't stop there . When we are united to Christ through faith in Him, He doesn't just forgive us; He adopts us . He brings us into His family! Since God has made us His family, His Spirit is continually making us like Himself .

We are to be like Him, and we demonstrate our new identity by forgiving others .

**Reflect on the specific things God has forgiven you for.
Thank Him for His mercy.**

DAY 3: Forgiving others demonstrates the forgiveness we've received from Christ.

Read **Matthew 5:3-12, 6:14-15.**

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught about what it means to live as citizens of the kingdom of God . He began this sermon with several statements of blessings that build upon each other (**Matthew 5:3-12**) . The one who recognizes his spiritual poverty (**v . 3**) will mourn over his sinful state (**v . 4**), submit himself entirely to God (**v . 5**), and long for true righteousness (**v . 6**) . When we receive God's mercy, we will be merciful to others . We demonstrate that God has forgiven us by our forgiveness toward others . But the converse of this is also true . The one who is unmerciful has not known the mercy of God . He demonstrates that he is unforgiven and still dead in his sins .¹³

DAY 3: Forgiving others demonstrates the forgiveness we've received from Christ.

Read **Matthew 5:3-12, 6:14-15.**

Later in His message, Jesus was even more explicit . “**For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses**” (6:14-15) . Jesus wasn't making forgiveness a work that we do to earn our own forgiveness; rather, Jesus was describing the state of our hearts . Forgiving others isn't a condition of salvation; it's a confirmation of salvation .

What words would you use to describe God's forgiveness offered to you?

Ask Him to begin growing those same characteristics in your heart.

DAY 4: We can forgive and leave the rest to God.

Read **Ephesians 4:32**.

Forgiveness is both a choice and a process . Sometimes we know we need to forgive someone for what they've done, but we're still working through the deep pain of betrayal or loss .

Sometimes our desire for justice keeps us stuck in unforgiveness . It's important to remember that forgiveness isn't ignoring their offense; it's trusting God to work justice on your behalf .

We leave any vengeance in God's hands, knowing that one day He will set everything right . Forgiveness means we give the unpaid debt—the balance of what the other person owes—to the Lord who will vindicate us

DAY 4: We can forgive and leave the rest to God.

Read **Ephesians 4:32**.

Look at who does the repaying . The one who did wrong to you owes you a debt, but it's God who repays . How can that be? There are two reasons:

1.All sin is ultimately against God. We break His laws and rebel against His commands . And sin against God affects other people . When that person sinned against you, he sinned against God . God alone is the righteous and rightful Judge .

2.When we forgive, we trust the Lord to make things right. It may not be in our way or in our timing, but God promises to honor those who trust Him and live according to His ways .

Memorize **Ephesians 4:32** as a reminder of this important command.

DAY 5: Unforgiveness hurts our hearts and our relationships.

Read **Matthew 18:28-35**.

The truth is we can't afford *not* to forgive . Unforgiveness is a cancer that will ravage our hearts, infect our words, corrupt our relationships, and thwart our purpose . It's impossible to love God and love others when we're carrying this spiritual disease . God didn't create us with the ability to tolerate it and survive .

Choosing forgiveness isn't just spiritually and relationally healthy . It affects your physical health, as well . Medical research has found that the act of forgiveness improves cholesterol levels, benefits the immune system, reduces pain, lowers blood pressure and stress levels, decreases anxiety and depression, and even reduces the risk of cardiac arrest .¹⁴ How many areas of your life have been infected by unforgiveness?

If your heart is sick with unforgiveness, you can be healed and restored to spiritual health . But only if you humbly come to the Great Physician, agree with His diagnosis, and follow His plan .

DAY 5: Unforgiveness hurts our hearts and our relationships.

Read **Matthew 18:28-35.**

When someone hurts you, whether small or large, be prepared to offer forgiveness right away. Practice forgiving immediately without requiring anything in return.

“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” E P H E S I A N S 4:3 2

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