

Sharon Methodist Church

WEEKLY HOME DEVOTION

for Sunday, Sep. 13, 2026

Day 1: When God Rewrites the Story

Devotional - Have you ever looked back at a painful season and wondered where God was in it? Joseph did. Sold by his own brothers, falsely accused, forgotten in prison. Yet when he finally stood face to face with those same brothers, he did not see a story of betrayal. He saw a story of God's faithfulness.

That kind of perspective does not come easily. It requires trusting that God is sovereign even when life feels completely out of control. Joseph did not minimize what his brothers did. He acknowledged the harm. But he also recognized that God had been quietly at work through every painful chapter, weaving something greater than any of them could see at the time.

This is the foundation of forgiveness. Before we can release someone else, we need to believe that God has not lost the plot of our lives. When we trust His purposes over our pain, forgiveness becomes possible. Not easy, but possible.

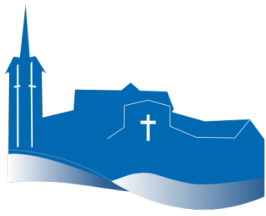
You may be carrying a wound right now that feels too deep to forgive. Start here. Ask God to help you see your story the way Joseph saw His, not through the lens of what was done to you, but through the lens of a God who wastes nothing.

Bible Verse - "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." - Genesis 50:20

Reflection Question - Is there a painful chapter in your life where you have struggled to see God's hand at work, and what would it look like to begin trusting His purposes over your pain?

Quote - "You meant this for evil, but God meant this for good."

Prayer - Lord, help me to trust that You are sovereign over every painful moment in my story. Give me the eyes of faith to see Your hand at work even where I have only seen hurt. Amen.



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Day 2: More Than a Number

Devotional - Peter thought he was being generous. "How many times should I forgive someone who wrongs me? Seven times?" In his culture, that was already above and beyond. Jesus answered with something that stopped Peter in His tracks. Not seven times, but seventy-seven.

Jesus was not giving Peter a new quota to track. He was dismantling the idea of a quota altogether. Forgiveness, in the kingdom of God, is not a limit you reach. It is a posture you live from.

That is a hard word. Because most of us have a number in our heads. A point where we feel justified in closing the door. And honestly, that feeling makes sense. Repeated hurt is exhausting. But Jesus is pointing us toward something deeper than feelings. He is pointing us toward a way of life rooted in grace.

The good news is that you do not have to manufacture this on your own. The same grace that covers your failures is the grace that empowers you to extend forgiveness to others. You are not the source. You are simply a channel of what you have already received.

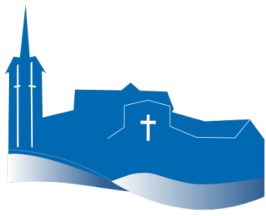
Today, ask yourself honestly: have you put a number on someone's forgiveness? It might be time to let that number go.

Bible Verse - "Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" - Matthew 18:21-22

Reflection Question - Is there someone in your life you have quietly decided you are done forgiving, and what would it look like to choose grace one more time?

Quote - "Not seven times, answered Jesus, but 77 times."

Prayer - Jesus, forgiveness does not come naturally to me, but I know it comes from You. Help me to live from a posture of grace rather than keeping score. Amen.



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Day 3: The Debt You Could Not Pay

Devotional - Imagine owing a debt so large you could never, in a thousand lifetimes, pay it back. That is the servant in Jesus' parable. The king calls in the account, the servant has nothing to offer, and in a stunning act of compassion, the king cancels the entire debt. Just like that. Gone.

Then the servant walks out and finds a fellow servant who owes him a small amount, a fraction of what he was just forgiven, and he grabs him by the throat demanding payment.

It sounds outrageous. But Jesus is holding up a mirror.

Every believer has stood before a holy God with a debt they could not pay. Through Jesus Christ, that debt was cancelled completely. Not reduced. Not restructured. Cancelled. That is the gospel. And in light of that reality, withholding forgiveness from someone who has wronged us simply does not add up.

This is not about guilt. It is about perspective. When we remember the size of what we have been forgiven, the debts others owe us look very different. Forgiveness becomes less about what the other person deserves and more about who God has been to us.

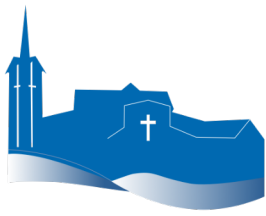
Let the grace you have received become the grace you give.

Bible Verse - "The king felt sorry for him, so he forgave him the debt and let him go." - Matthew 18:27

Reflection Question - When you think about the full weight of what God has forgiven you, how does that change the way you see the person you are struggling to forgive?

Quote - "You should have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you."

Prayer - Father, remind me daily of the debt You cancelled on my behalf. Let that truth soften my heart toward others and make me quick to forgive. Amen.



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Day 4: Forgiveness Is Not the Same as Forgetting

Devotional - One of the biggest reasons people struggle to forgive is a misunderstanding of what forgiveness actually means. Many assume that forgiving someone means pretending the harm did not happen, or returning to a relationship as if nothing changed. That is not what forgiveness requires.

Joseph forgave his brothers fully. He wept over them, provided for them, and spoke kindly to them. But he also acknowledged plainly what they had done. Forgiveness did not erase the facts. It released the debt.

For some people, especially those who have experienced abuse or serious harm, forgiveness can happen from a distance. Safety and forgiveness are not in conflict. You can release someone from the debt they owe you without placing yourself back in harm's way. That is not a lack of forgiveness. That is wisdom.

Forgiveness is also rarely a single moment. It is often a repeated choice, sometimes daily, to release what someone owes you. It might look like praying for the person who hurt you. It might look like choosing not to rehearse the offense in your mind. It is an internal decision, made over and over, rooted in the grace you have received.

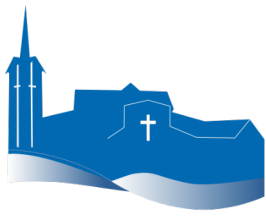
You do not have to feel it first. You just have to choose it. The feelings often follow.

Bible Verse - "Do not be afraid. I myself will provide for you and your little ones." - Genesis 50:21

Reflection Question - Have you confused forgiveness with trust or reconciliation, and how might separating those ideas free you to take a step toward forgiving someone today?

Quote - "They can forgive from a distance."

Prayer - God, help me to understand forgiveness the way You designed it. Give me the courage to release what others owe me, and the wisdom to know what healthy boundaries look like. Amen.



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Day 5: The Witness of a Forgiving Church

Devotional - Forgiveness is not just personal. It is public. The way believers treat one another tells the watching world something about the God they serve.

When a church can work through real offenses, disagreements, and deep wounds and come out unified on the other side, that is not just a relational win. It is a testimony. It points to something the world cannot manufacture on its own: the grace of Jesus Christ at work in ordinary, broken people.

This is why forgiveness matters beyond your own heart. Your willingness to forgive your brother or sister, even when it is hard, even when you are right, is an act of witness. It says that the gospel is real and that it actually changes people.

None of us will get this perfectly. We will hurt each other. We will disagree. We will sometimes need to be reminded of how much we ourselves have been forgiven before we can extend it to someone else. But that is the community we are called to be: people who pray for one another, love each other toward Christ, and keep choosing grace.

You have freely received forgiveness that cost Jesus everything. Now, freely give it. That is the life you are called to. And it is a life the world desperately needs to see.

Bible Verse - "That is how my Father in heaven will treat every one of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." - Matthew 18:35

Reflection Question - How might your choice to forgive someone in your life right now serve as a witness to those around you who are watching how Christians love one another?

Quote - "They will know that you are Christians by the way that you love one another."

Prayer - Lord, make us a people known for our love and our forgiveness. Let the grace You have shown us overflow into every relationship we carry. Amen.