

Fort Washington Baptist Church

Vacation Bible School 2023

Pastor Darin Poullard

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Fort Washington Baptist Church

11516 Fort Washington Road

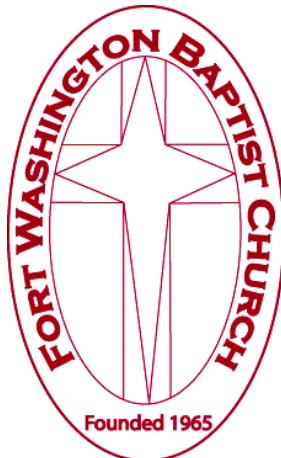
Fort Washington, Maryland 20744

301-292-1384

www.fortwashingtonbaptist.org

Vacation Bible School

June 21-23, 2023



Teach me how to Forgive!

**Session I
Participant**

What are we going to do in this Session?



- Welcome & Greetings
- Opening Prayer
- Purpose & Objectives of the Study
- What does it mean to forgive?
- How do we forgive others?
- Close in Prayer

Purpose of the Study



“I want to forgive!” “I should forgive!” “I’m commanded to forgive!” “I can’t forgive him/her/them!” “It’s so hard to forgive!” “Why is it so hard to forgive him/her?”

Maybe you’ve said these words or have heard others utter these words...either way...both express a reality of forgiveness. It’s just not easy to forgive. It’s challenging. It’s difficult! Oftentimes, it’s just hard to forgive. Some people genuinely want to forgive but have not found a way to get beyond their hurt or disappointment or anger over what someone has done -- and -- because they have not, sometimes even years later, these people still carry the hurt, the disappointment, and/or the anger in their heart and mind over what was done.

How do we forgive others who have hurt us, disappointed us, or deeply angered us? What steps do we take to enable us to forgive others? The purpose of this study is to provide biblical/godly guidance on steps believers can take that can enable them to forgive others.

Objectives



1. To learn the New Testament Greek verbs translated “forgive” in their context.
2. To learn practical steps to take to facilitate forgiveness.

3. To learn how God deals with us when we forgive and when we do not.

What does it mean to forgive?



There are three Greek words translated “forgive” in the New Testament and one translated “forgiveness.” The verb “*Apo-loo-o*,” translated “forgive” is used numerous times in the New Testament. Being a verb, “*apo-loo-o*” is an action word...something someone does. In some passages the verb has been translated “put away.” Joseph wanted to “put away” Mary, to “divorce” Mary so she would not be judged an adulteress and condemned, when he discovered that she was pregnant before they came together as husband and wife (**Matt. 1:19**). The verb is used again in the context of divorce when Jesus said,

“Whoever **sends** his wife **away**, let Him give her a certificate of divorce, but I say to that everyone who **divorces** his wife, except for the cause of unchastity makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a **divorced** woman commits adultery” (**Matt. 5:31-32**).

The verb is also translated “**send away**” in multiple passages. When it was evening the disciples told Jesus to “**send** the multitudes **away**” to go buy food for themselves (**Matt. 14:15**). Before He went up to the mountain by Himself to pray, Jesus “**sent** the multitudes **away**” (**Matt. 14:22-23**). When the Canaanite woman began to cry out to Jesus saying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed,” the disciples of Jesus kept saying, “**Send** her **away** for she is shouting after us (**Matt. 15:22-23**).

The verb is also translated “**release**” in reference to a prisoner (**Matt. 27:15**; **Mark. 15:6**), or “**to loose**” someone from a sickness (**Lk. 13:12**) or to “**set** someone **free**” who is being held captive (**Acts 26:32; Heb. 13:23**). In more than 50 uses in the New Testament, the verb “*apo-loo-o*” is only understood to mean “**forgive**” in **Luke 6:37** where it reads,

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn and you will not be condemned; **pardon** and you will be **pardoned.**”

Question: What does it mean to forgive “*Apo-loo-o*” someone?

Answer: To forgive someone means to release someone, to set someone free, to send someone away – no longer bound, to free someone from any obligations to you, to set someone loose - to pardon someone.

Fill in the blank: When you forgive...

- You release someone *from* _____
- You set someone free from _____
- You send someone away, no longer bound to _____
- You free someone from any obligations to _____
- You pardon or release someone from _____
- You release **yourself** from _____
- You are no longer bound to _____
- You set **yourself** free from _____
- You set **yourself** free to _____

Wisdom:

1. To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you (Lewis B. Smedes).
2. There is no revenge so complete as forgiveness (Josh Billings)
3. It is not an easy journey, to get to a place where you forgive people. But it is such a powerful place, because it frees you (Tyler Perry).

How do we forgive others?



“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn and you will not be condemned; **pardon** and you will be **pardon**ed.”

I. Disciples of Jesus Christ, to forgive, must

Jesus commanded His disciples saying, “love your enemies.” Enemies describe those who are hostile to you and oppose you (**Matt. 10:36**), those who work against you (**Matt. 13:25**) and create difficulty and hardship for you (**Matt. 13:25-28**). An enemy is someone who behaves toward you, like your enemy, the devil, (**Matt. 13:39**). An enemy is someone who hates you (**Lk. 1:71, 74**). Jesus commanded His disciples saying, “love your enemies.”

To love your enemies would be to “do good to them,” to be merciful to them, to not judge them, but to **pardon** them, to release them from your anger, to

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set them free from any vengeance you might desire, to free them from any obligation towards you. Forgiving others is a loving action, which is to be done by **disciples of Jesus Christ towards those who are enemies and those who behave like enemies.**

Point: To forgive, commit yourself to doing what is loving towards others. To commit yourself means _____.

II. Disciples of Jesus Christ, to forgive, must _____ from the one being forgiven.

Jesus commanded His disciples saying, “love your enemies...expecting nothing in return.” Disciples of Jesus Christ are not to give or forgive **expecting** something in return. Your hope may be that the person you give to would return what you have given and that the person you forgive changes his/her behavior towards you. Jesus taught that loving others is not dependent on them loving you. Give and forgive, expecting nothing in return.

Forgiveness is not extended because a person promises to change. Disciples are to do good, expecting nothing in return. Disciples are to be merciful expecting nothing in return. Disciples are not to judge or condemn the person who has behaved like an enemy. Disciples are to behave like the Father - doing good - being merciful - being kind to the grateful and the ungrateful - to those who are evil and those who are not. For disciples of Jesus Christ, neither giving nor forgiving are to be conditional - only granted when someone promises something in return. **If disciples forgive only when there is an expectation of receiving something from the one being forgiven, that is not love.**

Fill in:

- I'll forgive you if _____.
- I'll forgive you even if _____.

III. Disciples of Jesus Christ, to forgive, must _____.

Jesus commanded his disciples saying, “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and **you will be sons of the Most High**; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn and you will not be condemned; **pardon** and you will be **pardon**ed.”

Disciples who become like the Father love their enemies *as the Father does*, do good to towards their enemies and all others *as the Father does*, give expecting nothing in return *as the Father does*, is kind to ungrateful and evil men *as the Father is*, is merciful *as the Father is*, and instead of judging and condemning people who are enemies, who do evil, and who are ungrateful, they pardon/forgive them *as the Father does*. To forgive is loving, kind, merciful, in contrast to judging and condemning, and the behavior of a disciple who has become like the Father. The Father is loving and kind to evil and ungrateful people. He forgives evil and ungrateful people. Forgiving others is what the Father does. **God views disciples as having become like the Father and those who do not forgive, have not become like the Father.**

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List: To become like the Father, so they can forgive, disciples of Jesus Christ must:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____