



## THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

### Realize That God Loves You.

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)*

### The Bible Says That All Men Are Sinners.

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)*

### The Bible Also Says That Sin Must Be Paid For.

*“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23)*

### The Good News Is That Jesus Christ Paid for Your Sins.

*“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)*

### You Must Personally Call on Jesus Christ to Save You.

*“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)*

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# God's Plan to Practice Forgiveness

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## Memory Verse - Ephesians 4:32

*“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”*

## Study Aim

- To understand some misconceptions about forgiveness and establish a biblical understanding of forgiveness.
- To discover God's plan of how we should practice forgiveness in our lives no matter the situation we may find ourselves in.
- Read the verses that are given in the study guide.

## Set the Stage

- There are misconceptions about what true forgiveness is:
  - “Forgive and forget.” That’s nearly impossible. So that can’t be true biblical forgiveness.
  - “Forgive only if they say sorry.” Not everyone will apologize so that can’t be true biblical forgiveness.
  - “Forgive as long as they don’t keep doing it.” That is not how Jesus has forgiven us so that can’t be true biblical forgiveness.
- The only way to forgive like Jesus requires us to is to:
  1. Experience the forgiveness of Jesus through the Gospel.
  2. Meditate on the love and forgiveness of God that you have received.

## Take it to the Next Level

## 1. Pray for them

- *“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.” Luke 23:34*
- **There is no limit to what is to be forgiven.**

## 2. Forgive them

- *“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.” Colossians 3:13*
- *“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32*
- **Forgiveness is not based on their response or lack of a response.**

## 3. Don't avoid the them

- *“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.” Matthew 18:15-17*
- **Forgiveness occurs within community.**

## 4. Pursue reconciliation and restitution with them

- *“Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.” Luke 17:3-5*
- **There is no limit to forgiveness.**
- *“And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.” Mark 11:25*
- **There is no prerequisite for forgiveness.**

## 5. Do everything in love

- *“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for **charity shall cover the multitude of sins.**” 1 Peter 4:8*
- **Love allows us to forgive and be obedient to Jesus through the issue.**