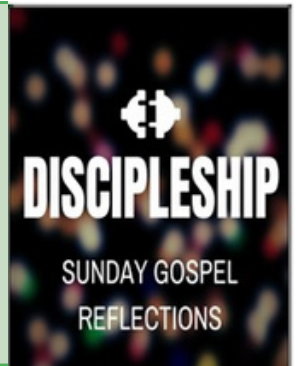


In preparation for September 13, 2026:

Twenty-fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Theme - Freed by forgiveness leads to the freedom to forgive.

Verse for reflection: "I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you? Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart." Matthew 18:21-35 (Verses 32-35)



Adults -

1. Jesus teaches that forgiveness is not about counting offenses but about cultivating a heart shaped by God's mercy. How can remembering God's mercy change your attitude toward others?
2. Jesus also invites us to make forgiveness a way of life that reflects the grace they have received. How can you respond with grace instead of resentment when someone wrongs you?
3. Is there someone you need to forgive today? What step can you take toward forgiving someone this week?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Pride, resentment, keeping score, misunderstanding forgiveness.

Teens -

1. Why is forgiveness one of the hardest things Jesus asks us to do? Is forgiving someone the same as saying what they did was okay? Why or why not? Have you ever been forgiven when you didn't deserve it? How did that make you feel?
2. Is there someone you're still holding a grudge against? What makes it hard to let go? How does social media and gossip make forgiveness more difficult?
3. Does remembering God's mercy for you make it a little easier to forgive others? Why or why not?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Believing that forgiving someone means letting them "get away with it" instead of trusting God with justice and choosing freedom over resentment.

Children -

1. When was the last time you forgave someone for hurting you? How did that make you feel? Have you recently had to ask for forgiveness? Was that easy or hard for you? Explain.
2. Jesus said to forgive someone seventy-seven times. Does he mean that when we reach that number we can stop forgiving? Why or why not?
3. What happens if someone who has hurt you and doesn't say they are sorry; do you forgive them any way or stay mad at them? What can you do to help yourself forgive them, even when it is hard?
4. Do you ever pray for the person who has hurt you? Do you think prayer can help you heal and forgive?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Not wanting to forgive. Holding grudges.