



Well Prayed
Forgive us as we Forgive Others

Forgiveness is often not fair and it's very rarely easy. One thing it is? REQUIRED. The Lord's Prayer teaches us that we MUST forgive others if we hope to be forgiven by God. It's a tough pill to swallow, but has the power to bring about true and lasting reconciliation.

Scripture:

"And forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us."

Matthew 6:12

"If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Matthew 6:14-15

"Then Peter came to him and asked, 'Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?'"

'No, not seven times,' Jesus replied, 'but seventy times seven!'"

Matthew 18:21-22

"Therefore, the Kingdom of Heaven can be compared to a king who decided to bring his accounts up to date with servants who had borrowed money from him. In the process, one of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars. He couldn't pay, so his master ordered that he be sold—along with his wife, his children, and everything he owned—to pay the debt."

"But the man fell down before his master and begged him, 'Please, be patient with me, and I will pay it all.' Then his master was filled with pity for him, and he released him and forgave his debt."

"But when the man left the king, he went to a fellow servant who owed him a few thousand dollars. He grabbed him by the throat and demanded instant payment."

“His fellow servant fell down before him and begged for a little more time. ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it,’ he pleaded. But his creditor wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested and put in prison until the debt could be paid in full.

“When some of the other servants saw this, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him everything that had happened. Then the king called in the man he had forgiven and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave you that tremendous debt because you pleaded with me. Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?’ Then the angry king sent the man to prison to be tortured until he had paid his entire debt.

“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”

Matthew 18:23-35

Icebreaker and Intro Questions:

1. How has COVID-19 shifted your summer plans?
2. How has the Well Prayed series affected your connection to God through prayer?

Discussion Questions

3. Read Matthew 6:12 and Matthew 6:14-16 together as a group. What are your immediate reactions to this passage?
4. Since you first heard this message on Sunday, how has Jesus’ teaching about forgiveness been challenging you? What is continuing to resonate with you?
5. Read Matthew 18:21-22 together as a group. Then have everyone take a few minutes to read Matthew 18:23-35 by themselves. Take a moment to reflect on how this parable should impact our lives and challenge us. How is Jesus speaking to you through this Scripture and story?
6. What do you sense God wants you to do as a response to this difficult teaching from Jesus?
7. How can you pray this part of Jesus’ prayer together as a group as you close your time together? You might have several people pray out loud, and then have someone close by using the words of Jesus’ prayer from Matthew 6:9-13.

This week:

- The theme of forgiveness can touch on places of deep hurt and wounding. If you need guidance to navigate painful relationships or experiences, please reach out to us at care@wschurch.org. We want to be a place where it’s okay to not be okay and we’d be honored to walk alongside of you or give additional resources.
- Join us in praying and seeking God’s guidance during this season of injustice and unrest. We want to turn our attention to God and ask for the peace, justice, and reconciliation of his kingdom to come to earth. A guide to direct your prayer can be found at www.wschurch.org/pray.
- Keep using the words of Jesus’ prayer in Matthew 6 to guide your prayer times. Pray these words slowly, thoughtfully, and allow your body, mind and spirit to be focused on God as you say the words.
- We’ve put together several excellent resources for you to use during the Well-Prayed teaching series at West Side. Check out several Bible reading plans, video resources, and prayer tools at wschurch.org/resources.

Notes: