



**December 31, 2023**  
**Forgive to Live**  
**Spiritual Formation Guide**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at [info@wschurch.org](mailto:info@wschurch.org).

**Scripture:**

- Matthew 18:35—*"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."*
- Matthew 18:21—*"Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"*
- Matthew 18:22—*"I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."*
- Matthew 18:28— *But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay you back." But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.*
- Romans 13:3— *Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 2:9—*"Do not consider him innocent... bring his gray head down to the grave in blood."*

**Reflection Questions:**

- How was this holiday season for you? Was it a joyous time or a difficult season? This is a safe space to share.
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the story video, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)

- Eddie shared that whether or not you forgive someone will have a huge impact on your quality of life. Why do you think this has such a huge impact on us?
- “Refusing to forgive is like feeding yourself poison and expecting someone else to get sick.” How do you react to this statement?
- “Forgiveness isn’t about them getting away with it. It’s about you getting away from it.” Does this statement free you or challenge you?
- Is there someone you need to forgive today?

Want some resources and ideas for how to grow spiritually as we start a new year?  
Visit [www.wschurch.org/resources](http://www.wschurch.org/resources) to see some of the tools that our team is recommending.

**Message Main Points:**

- Are you *quick* to forgive, *slow* to forgive, or *unlikely* to forgive?
- “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”
- Jesus’ commands are not only right, they are right for us.
- Forgiveness seems unjust.
- Forgiveness is a process.
- Forgiveness isn’t about them getting away with it. It’s about you getting away from it.