



5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Based on the Series: Resolved - Learn to Forgive

Day 1: The Foundation of Forgiveness

Reading: Ephesians 4:29-32

Devotional: Forgiveness is not a feeling -- it is a decision rooted in truth. Paul's words to the Ephesian church remind us that kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness are not optional qualities for the believer. They are marks of someone who has genuinely received the grace of God through Christ.

Before you can extend forgiveness to another person, you must first remember what God has already extended to you. Every debt you have ever owed before God was cancelled at the cross. That reality changes everything. Today, ask yourself honestly: is there someone in your life you are withholding forgiveness from? Begin there.

Day 2: The Cost of Unforgiveness

Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Devotional: Jesus tells the story of a servant who was forgiven an enormous debt, only to turn around and demand repayment from someone who owed him very little. The contrast is staggering. We often do the same thing -- we come before God desperate for mercy, and then we refuse to extend even a fraction of that mercy to others. Unforgiveness is a spiritual trap. It keeps you bound to the very pain you are trying to escape. It does not punish the person who hurt you. It punishes you.

Today, meditate on the size of the debt God forgave you. Let that truth soften what has grown hard in your heart.

Day 3: Releasing Your Right to Revenge

Reading: Romans 12:17-21

Devotional: Paul's instruction is direct: never take revenge. Leave justice in the hands of God. This is one of the most difficult commands in all of scripture because every human being carries within them a God-given desire for justice. The problem is that our sense of justice, apart from Christ, is corrupted by pain, pride, and self-interest.

God's justice is perfect, righteous, and certain. When you choose to forgive, you are not letting the offender off the hook -- you are trusting God to be the judge He has always been. You are releasing your grip and placing the matter into hands far more capable than your own.

Day 4: Prayer as the Path to Freedom

Reading: Mark 11:22-26

Devotional: Jesus connects prayer directly to forgiveness. He says that when you stand in prayer, you must first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against. This is not a suggestion -- it is a condition. Unforgiveness and effective prayer cannot coexist.

When you bring someone who has hurt you before God in prayer, something remarkable happens: God begins to change you more than He changes them. You gain His perspective. You begin to see the person through eyes of empathy rather than offense. Prayer does not excuse what was done to you. It frees you from being defined by it. Make forgiveness part of your daily prayer life beginning today.

Day 5: The Model of Christ -- Forgiving From the Cross

Reading: Luke 23:32-34 and Colossians 3:12-14

Devotional: At the worst moment of His earthly life, beaten, mocked, and nailed to a cross, Jesus looked at those who put Him there and prayed for their forgiveness. He did not wait for an apology. He did not wait for them to stop gambling over His garments. He forgave while the offense was still happening. This is the standard to which we are called as followers of Christ. It is impossible

in our own strength, but it is entirely possible through His.

Colossians reminds us that above all the other virtues of a disciple, we are to put on love, which binds everything together in perfect unity. Forgiveness is not the end of the story -- it is where healing begins.