



DEVOTIONAL

Hollywood Prayer Network

FORGIVENESS

This week we're focusing on:
FORGIVENESS! When we forgive others
we become free. But it's a conscious
choice to forgive, not just a feeling to get
over. And let's also determine to seek the
forgiveness of others for anything they
may have against us. Most importantly,
let's embrace the unconditional, complete
forgiveness that Jesus offers all of us!





DAY 1

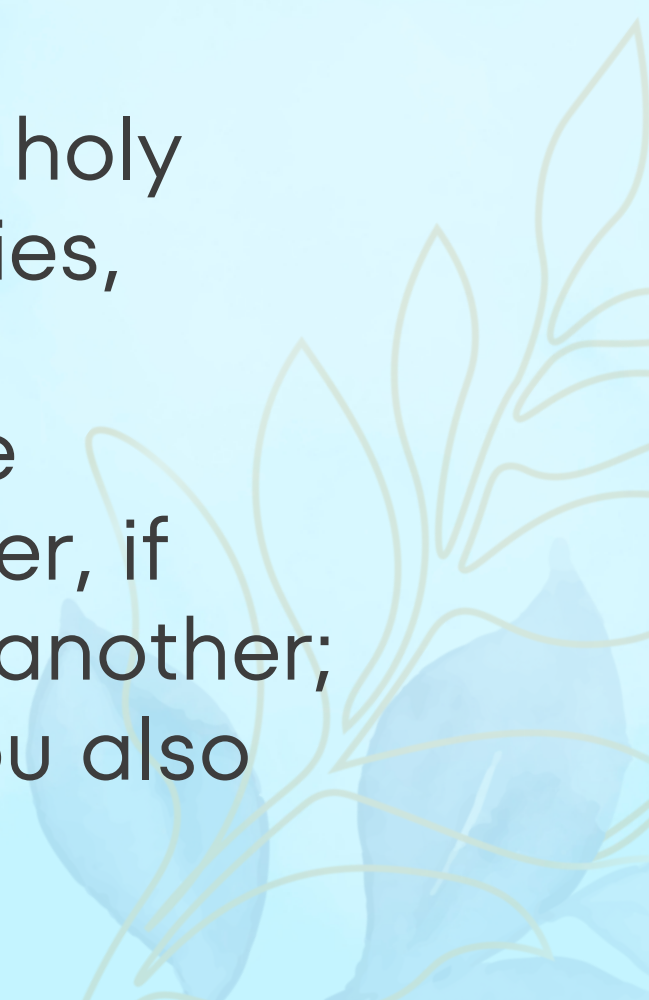
FORGIVE AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU

"I HAVE TO GET TO THE POINT OF THE ABSOLUTE AND UNQUESTIONABLE RELATIONSHIP THAT TAKES EVERYTHING EXACTLY AS IT COMES FROM HIM. GOD NEVER GUIDES US AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE, BUT ALWAYS HERE AND NOW. REALIZE THAT THE LORD IS HERE NOW, AND THE FREEDOM YOU RECEIVE IS IMMEDIATE.." -OSWALD CHAMBERS

Colossians 3:12-13

New King James Version

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.



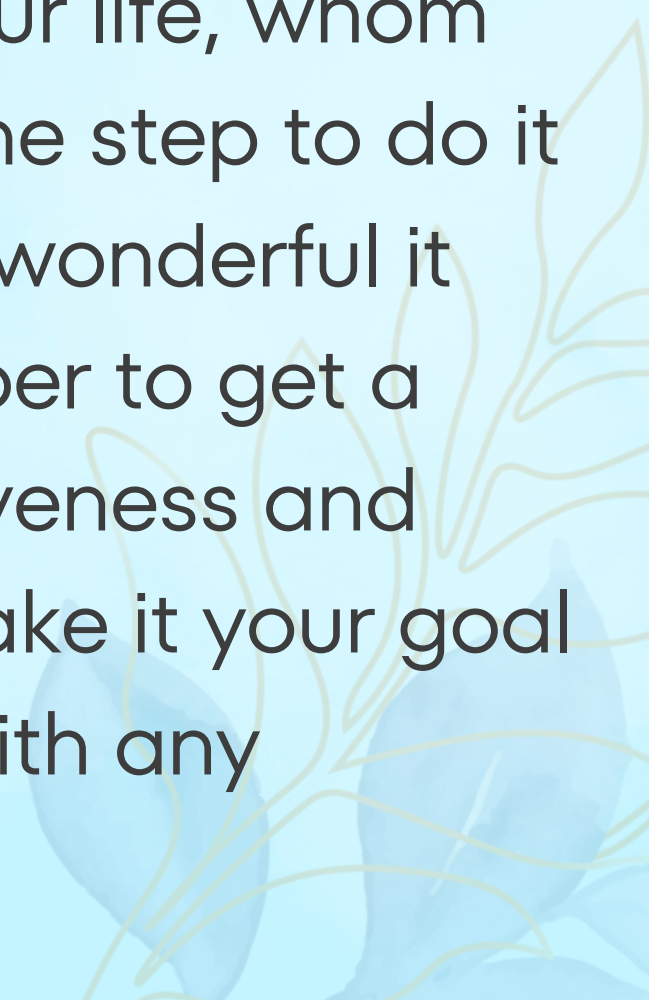


DAY 1

PRAY: Dear Lord, thank You for the gift of forgiveness! I want to practice it, embrace it, give it, and receive it. Will You give me the wisdom and strength to forgive anyone in my life who has hurt me? I don't want to hold a grudge, so please fill me with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. I want to forgive just as You have forgiven me. I pray in Jesus' name, AMEN!

REFLECT: Reflect on the people in your life you may need to forgive. Start as far back as you can remember and don't worry if the person is not in your life anymore, or not even alive. Just lift them up to the Lord and tell them you forgive them. It can be in your heart, through a letter, a phone call, or in your journal. Lift those people up to the Lord. Ask Him to give you complete forgiveness and peace and to release any negative feelings from your heart.

ACT: As you forgive the people in your life, whom you may not have in the past, take the step to do it in person, if that's appropriate. How wonderful it would be for a friend or family member to get a call or a letter from you, asking forgiveness and embracing them anew and fresh. Make it your goal today to actively and bravely deal with any unforgiveness.





DAY 2

FORGIVE OTHERS

"WE MUST QUIT BENDING THE WORD TO SUIT
OUR SITUATION. IT IS WE WHO MUST BE BENT
TO THAT WORD, OUR NECKS THAT MUST
BOW UNDER THE YOKE."

-ELISABETH ELLIOT

Matthew 6:14-15

New King James Version

14 "For if you forgive men their
trespasses, your heavenly Father will also
forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive
men their trespasses, neither will your
Father forgive your trespasses."

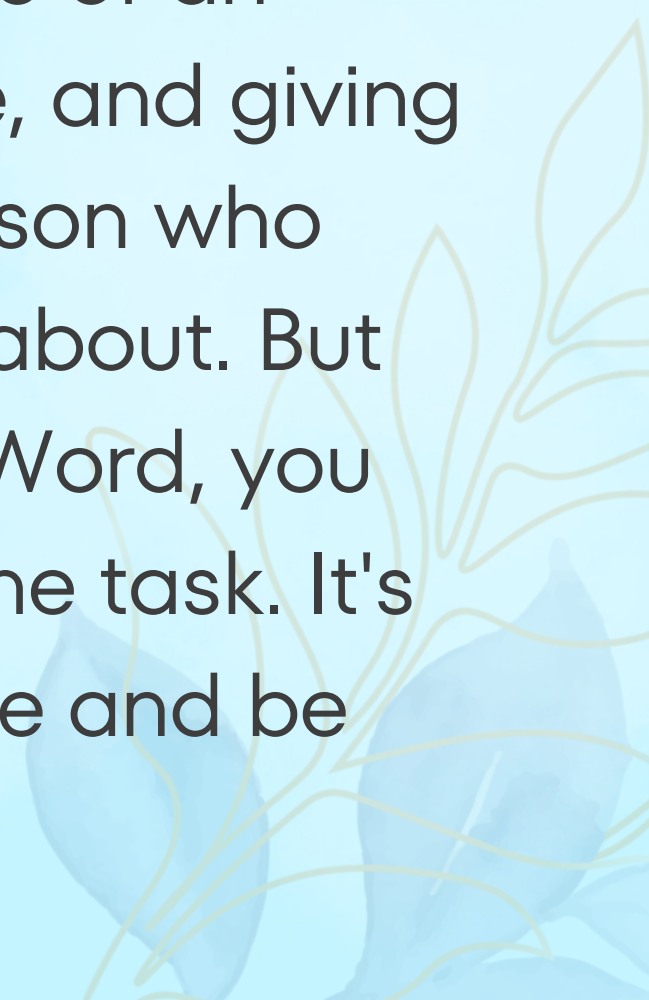


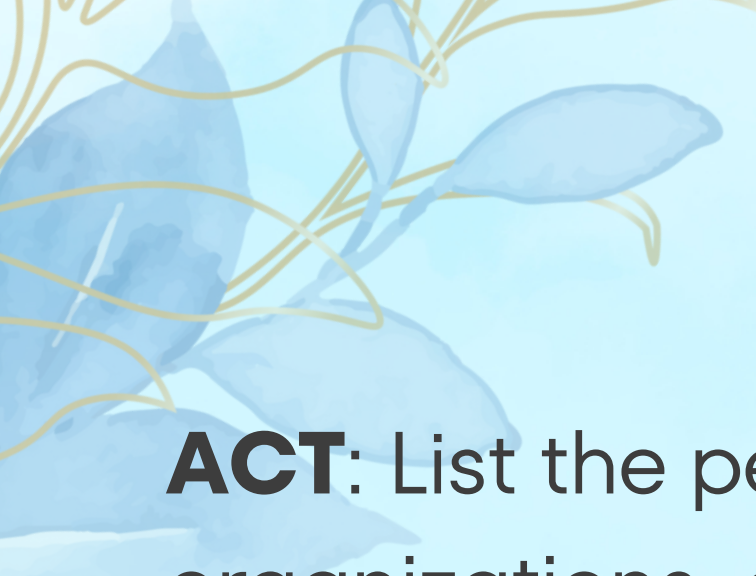


DAY 2

PRAY: Dear God, I want to fully understand the power of forgiveness. Would You make me understand the process of forgiving others and how that impacts my relationship with You? Would You reveal to me whom I haven't forgiven? I may not be aware that I am holding unforgiveness in my heart. Please show me if I am, so that I am in good standing with others and with You. I want complete forgiveness from You, so I want to start now by checking my own heart towards others. Thank You for revealing to me any unforgiveness. Amen.

REFLECT: Study the word FORGIVENESS. What does it really mean? Look it up. You'll see there are even health benefits to forgiveness. It is not condoning, excusing, or forgetting the wrong, and it does not necessarily mean that you have to reconcile. It's letting go of an offense and the desire for revenge, and giving up the right to get back at the person who wronged you. That's a lot to think about. But when you fully understand God's Word, you will be better able to succeed at the task. It's not "forgive and forget," it's "forgive and be free!"





DAY 2

ACT: List the people or groups of people, organizations, committees, or even corporations who make you angry, or who have done something to hurt you, hinder you or humble you. Could it be the government for making you pay too much for health care? Is it your boss for working you too hard for too little pay? Is it your union for not supporting you? Is it your neighbor for making too much noise or a friend who betrayed you? There are so many levels of hurt, abuse, or pain that need to be forgiven. Start with the macro and move down to the micro. You may unveil a deep need for forgiveness that you didn't even know was there. Or you may find you are freer than you realized. Either way is okay, as long as you are honest with yourself and God.





DAY 3

GOD DELIGHTS TO SHOW MERCY

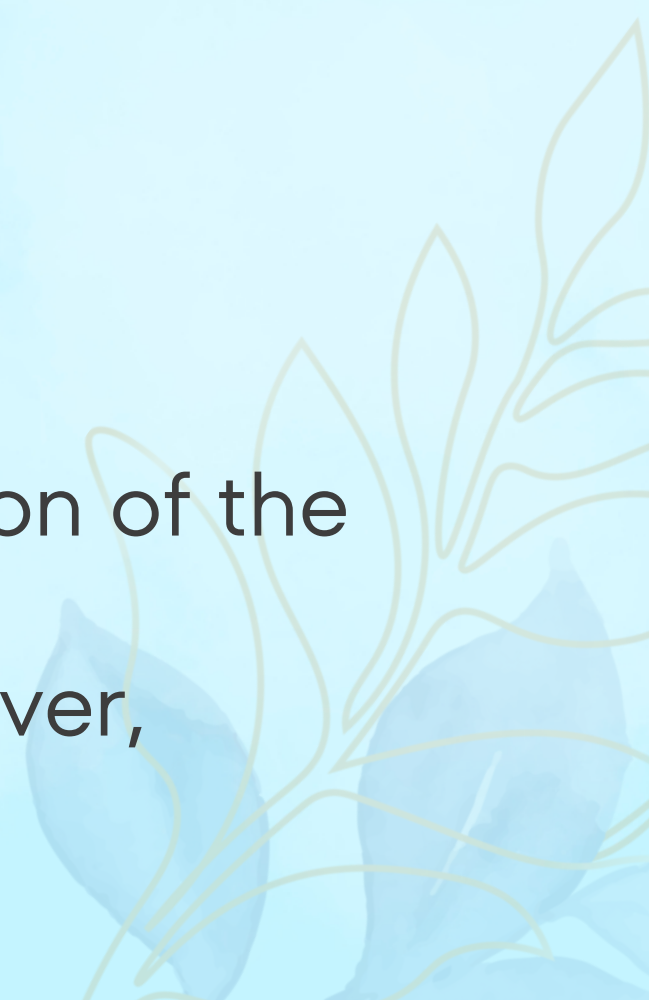
"MY MAMA ALWAYS SAID YOU'VE GOT TO PUT
THE PAST BEHIND YOU BEFORE YOU CAN
MOVE ON."

-FORREST GUMP

Micah 7:18

New King James Version

Who is a God like You,
Pardoning iniquity
And passing over the transgression of the
remnant of His heritage?
He does not retain His anger forever,
Because He delights in mercy.





DAY 3

PRAY: I praise You, God, for being so amazing! You pardon my sins; You forgive my transgressions; You do not stay angry at me, but You delight in showing me mercy. You are such a good God, and I am so thankful to be Your child. I praise You for Your unconditional love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness. Praise be to the Lord!.

REFLECT: "Who is a God like You?" What a good question. We worship the God who created the world, raises people from the dead, heals, reconciles, transforms, and unites. There is no other God who pardons our sin and who shows every single human being supernatural grace and mercy. We serve an amazing God. If we truly believed that with our whole heart, soul, and mind, we would be different people. Think about who the God is that you follow? Thank Him, for He is the God of forgiveness.





DAY 3

ACT: Take this time to Praise our forgiving God. Praise Him for things you've never praised Him for before. Praise Him for forgiving you for everything you've done - even things you didn't realize were sins. Praise Him for His mercy. Praise Him for creating this world and everyone in it - even the people you don't like. Praise Him for forgiving our politicians, teachers, your doctors, and even Hollywood. Praise Him for the joy these people bring into your life through films, TV shows, music, video games, books, fine art, plays, concerts, and all forms of art and entertainment. Praise Him for His Divine creativity and His Divine forgiveness. Praise the Lord!





DAY 4

GOD HEARS, FORGIVES, AND HEALS

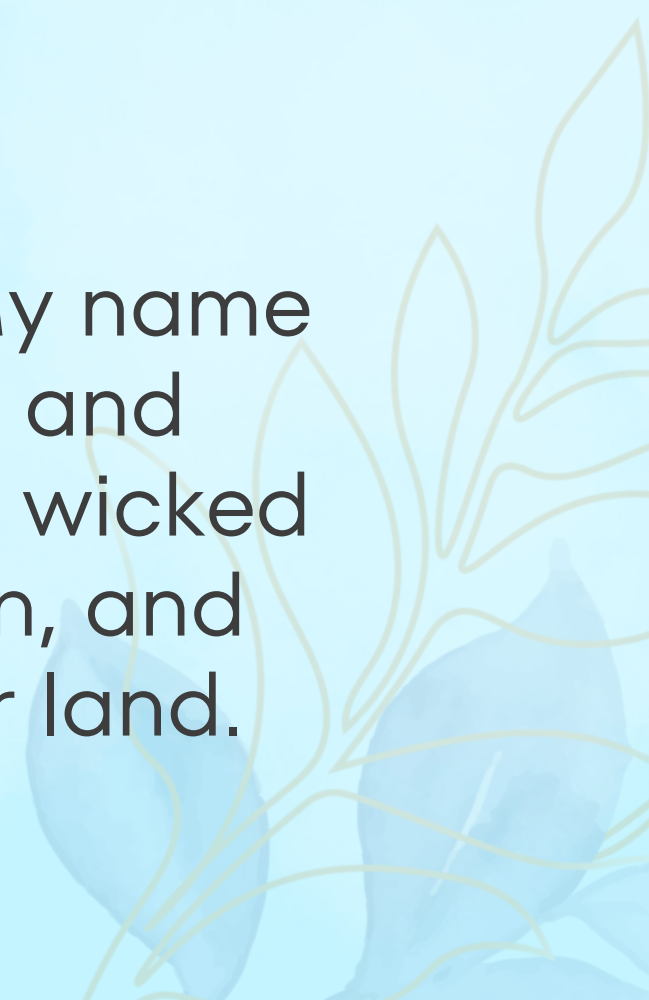
"THE GREAT GIFT OF HUMAN BEINGS IS THAT
WE HAVE THE POWER OF EMPATHY."

-MERYL STREEP

2 Chronicles 7:14

New King James Version

if My people who are called by My name
will humble themselves, and pray and
seek My face, and turn from their wicked
ways, then I will hear from heaven, and
will forgive their sin and heal their land.





DAY 4

PRAY: To my God and Father, I am called by Your name. I humble myself before You and pray to You, and as I seek Your face I will turn from my wicked ways. I want to hear from heaven so that You will forgive me for all of my sins and You will heal our land. As I forgive others, I pray that as a church, Christians all across America will seek Your face. Then you will forgive us and heal our households, our city, our state, and our nation.

REFLECT: This verse should make you wonder if we all need to be encouraging other believers around us to also seek God. He says that, "if His people" - not just one person - so maybe we should be more active in challenging our friends, family members, and church community to be seeking God's face. Is this verse a personal prayer, or a call to action for all of God's people? How would you humble yourself before Him, and should you tell others who are called by His name to do the same?





DAY 4

ACT: Who can you encourage to grow in their Christian faith? Who can you challenge to spend more time with Him and to actively seek His face? Who can you inspire to fall more in love with Him? Tell him or her that you want God to forgive your sins, and all Christians' sins, and to heal our land, and you can't do it alone! You can have an eternal impact on others, as well as on your own life, by reaching out to other Christians and asking them to take this verse seriously. We need each other!





DAY 5

JESUS PRAYS FOR US

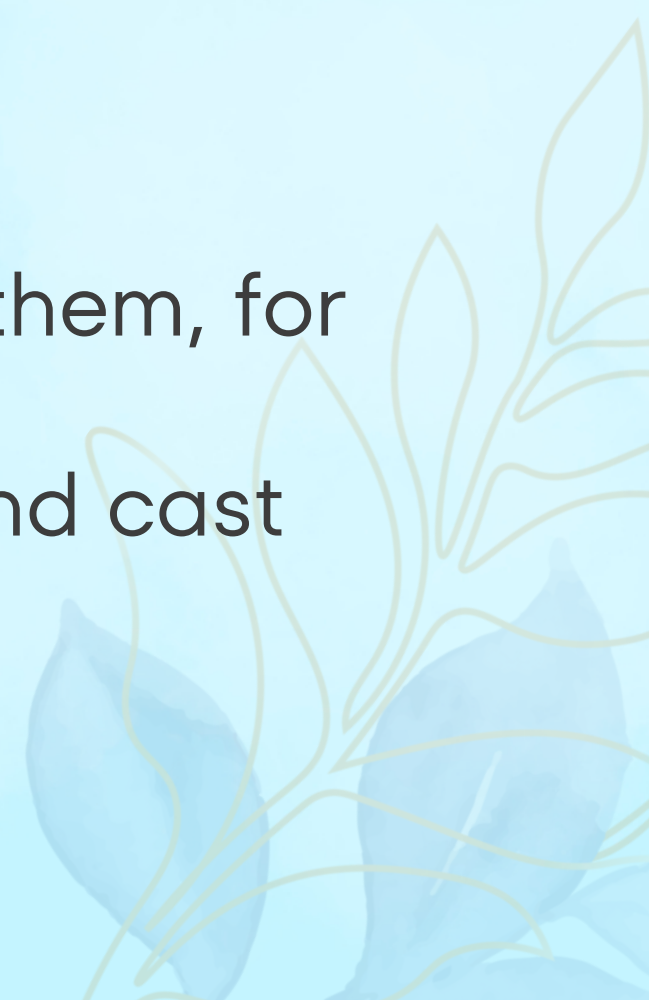
"IT'S SAID IN HOLLYWOOD THAT YOU
SHOULD ALWAYS FORGIVE YOUR ENEMIES -
BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL
HAVE TO WORK WITH THEM."

-LANA TURNER

Luke 23:34

New King James Version

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for
they do not know what they do."
And they divided His garments and cast
lots.





DAY 5

PRAY: Pray for the Lord to forgive you and other people of the sins we don't even know we're committing. Ask Him to heal the sick and broken people who are hurting, abusing, neglecting and betraying others because of their emotional, physical, and/or spiritual brokenness. Ask Him to give you compassion and grace for those who have hurt you, for maybe they don't know what they're doing.

REFLECT: We always assume that when someone hurts us, they know what they are doing and are choosing to sin. But Jesus makes us wonder if that is always the case. Maybe we do and say things out of habit, from what we learned growing up, or from what society says is okay. Because of these influences, we can tend to justify and rationalize our behavior and convince ourselves we're not sinning. We come to believe our actions are deserved, expected, and even accepted. That should make us look differently at the actions of other people and help us to forgive more readily.





DAY 5

ACT: God wants to give you His perspective on the words and actions of other people. He longs to give you compassion, insight, understanding, and peace for those who need forgiving. Jesus understood that people sin because they truly don't understand what they're doing, so we need to pray the same way. What do you need to do to change your perspective on the people around you? Ask Jesus to show you one thing He's forgiven you for so that you will be more like Him and respond differently to others.





DAY 6

YOU CAN BE FORGIVEN

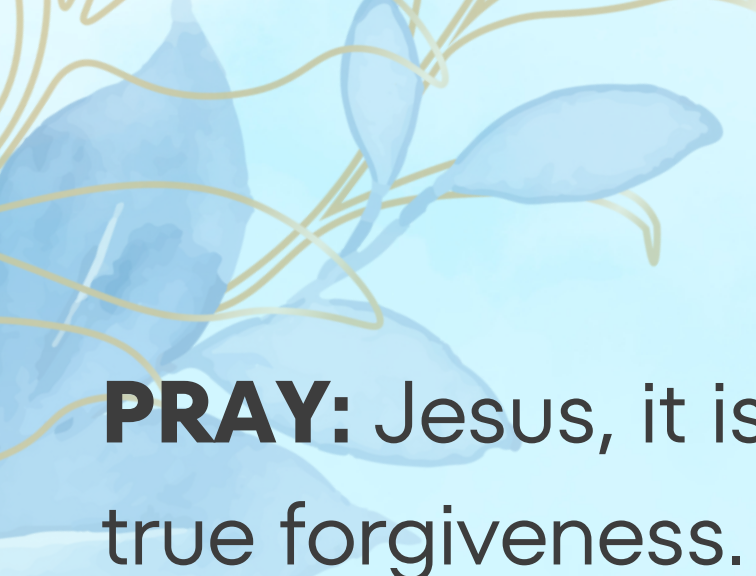
"I WILL NOT ASK FOR FORGIVENESS. WHAT I
HAVE DONE IS UNFORGIVABLE. I WAS SO
LOST IN HATRED AND REVENGE... -
MALEFICENT (ANGELINA JOLIE)"
-ELIZABETH RUDNICK

Acts 13:38

New King James Version

Therefore let it be known to you, brethren,
that through this Man is preached to you
the forgiveness of sins;



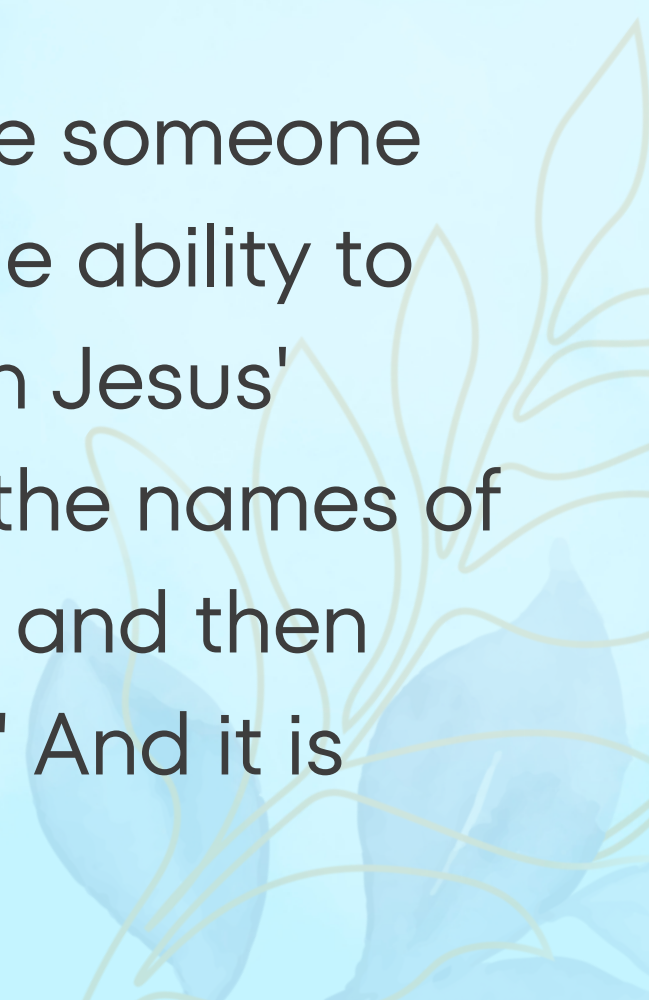


DAY 6

PRAY: Jesus, it is only through You that I can find true forgiveness. Help me to seek Your face and spend more time with You. I want to get so close to You that I can hear You proclaim forgiveness to me in a very personal way. Thank You for forgiving my sins and for reminding me that I need You for true and lasting forgiveness.

REFLECT: As you think about forgiveness, think about wanting others to seek forgiveness who don't know Jesus. True forgiveness and the ability to forgive others only comes through a relationship with Jesus. So, maybe we need to pray for a person's salvation before we expect them to forgive others or seek forgiveness for themselves. Sometimes we get angry at people in Hollywood for being bad role models for our children or for creating immoral entertainment, but if they don't know Jesus, what should we expect?

ACT: If you find you just can't forgive someone who has hurt you, remember that the ability to forgive only comes from Jesus. So, in Jesus' name, you can forgive. Write down the names of the people you haven't yet forgiven, and then write: "I forgive you, in Jesus' name!" And it is done!





DAY 7

GOD IS FAITHFUL TO FORGIVE

"GOD WILL FORGIVE ME. IT'S HIS JOB."
-HEINRICH HEINE

1 John 1:9

New King James Version

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and
just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse
us from all unrighteousness.



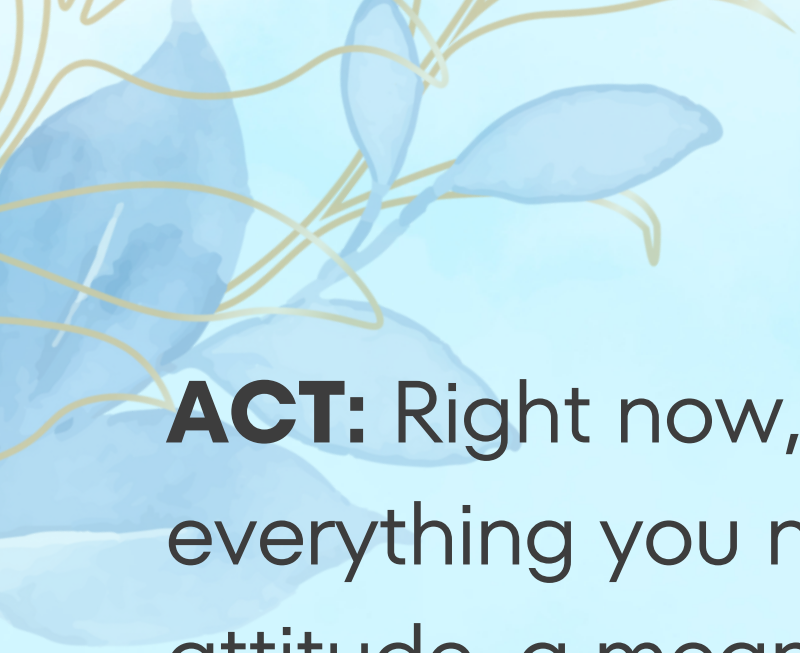


DAY 7

PRAY: Lord, I come to You now, in confession, for anything and everything in my heart. I know that You are faithful and just and will forgive me all of my sins, and I thank You for that. I also ask, Lord, that You purify me from all unrighteousness. I am at Your feet, asking for Your divine forgiveness for my sins, for You are the only one who can wipe away my sins and make my heart as white as snow.

REFLECT: Why do we sometimes have to go back to God, again and again, asking forgiveness for the same sin? Is it because we don't really believe when we go to Him the first time He has forgiven us? What prevents us from embracing His immediate forgiveness? Could it be our own guilt? Have you forgiven yourself? Could it be that if we don't forgive others, we don't feel complete forgiveness from the Lord? It's a difficult yet life-changing issue that is worth wrestling with.





DAY 7

ACT: Right now, sit before the Lord and lay out everything you need forgiveness for: a bad attitude, a mean word to another person, lying, cheating, pride, unforgiveness... Tell Him everything on your mind and in your heart, and ask Him to wipe your slate clean. Then, as you thank Him, do not doubt that you're forgiven and you are starting over as a new creature with a pure heart and a righteous spirit. Ahh, what a way to start your day!

