

New Creation Church

Small Group Guide

Week of Oct 11, 2026

This Is How We Live | RELEASE

Key Takeaways

- Put off the old, put on the new. Colossians 3:8-10 calls believers to actively remove the habits and patterns of the old self and replace them with the character of the new self in Christ. This includes how we respond to offence.
- Mercy received should produce mercy given. The parable in Matthew 18 illustrates that those who have been forgiven an enormous debt have no grounds to withhold forgiveness from others. Mindfulness of God's mercy toward us fuels our mercy toward others.
- The goal is reconciliation, not vindication. When we pursue peace with someone who has hurt us, the aim is not to prove we were right. The aim is to restore the relationship where possible.
- As far as it depends on you, pursue peace. Romans 12:18 places the responsibility on us to do our part. We cannot control the other person's response, but we can control whether we are holding offence or releasing it.
- Forgiveness is not the same as restored trust. Releasing someone from an offence in your heart does not automatically mean placing yourself in a vulnerable position again. Trust is rebuilt over time. Forgiveness is a decision of the heart.

Discussion Questions

1. Mark 11:25 connects forgiveness to prayer. We do not forgive in order to earn answered prayer, but we forgive because that is simply how we live. What is the difference between those two motivations, and why does it matter?
2. Being mindful of God's favour is a key motivation for forgiving others -- how does regularly reflecting on the mercy and forgiveness you have personally received from God change your posture toward people who have wronged you? (Think of the parable in Matthew 18 where a servant who received extraordinary forgiveness refused to extend forgiveness to someone else).
3. Romans 12:18 says to live peaceably with all people as far as it depends on you. What does "as far as it depends on you" look like practically in a situation where the other person is not willing to reconcile?

Practical Applications

- **Identify and release.** Write down the name of one person you have been holding an offence against. Spend time in prayer, consciously releasing that person and that situation to God. Ask Him to handle what you cannot.
- **Take one step toward reconciliation.** If there is a relationship where reconciliation is appropriate and the door is open, take one step this week — a text, a phone call, or a request to meet. Go in with the goal of restoring the relationship, not proving your point.
- **Practice mindfulness of mercy.** Each morning this week, before you begin your day, take two minutes to recall something specific that God has forgiven you. Let that awareness shape how you respond to the people around you.
- **Examine your programming.** Reflect honestly on one pattern or reaction in your life that belongs to the "old man." Name it specifically. Ask God to help you identify what "putting on the new man" looks like in that area.

Prayer Focus

- Ask God to make you genuinely aware of the mercy He has shown you.
- Ask for the grace to release specific offences you have been carrying.
- Ask God to let the peace described in Colossians 3:15 rule in each heart represented in the room.

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"As the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering, bearing with one another and forgiving one another." — **Colossians 3:12-13**