

As We Forgive Those
Real Life Catholic Study Series

Lesson II

Introduction

This second episode is long, over an hour. If doing this study as a group, you may want to have the group members view the video content, or at least some of it, prior to your meeting. The conversation is rich and compelling. We didn't want to break that up in any way and risk losing the momentum of what was being discussed.

There are seven key Scripture passages discussed in this episode. You might get the most benefit by narrowing your discussion down to two or three of these passages. We have provided several questions that will help you dive into those verses with your group, or for yourself as an individual.

Short Summary of the Episode

Chris Stefanick, Father Ken Geraci and Jim Beckman engage in a compelling conversation about the topic of forgiveness. Chris proposes seven key Scripture passages that steer the conversation, all of which are listed below.

The episode begins with acknowledging the difference between reading/studying the Word of God, and really letting it speak to us. How do we read the Word in a way that God is really talking to us? In this study, we want to be truly listening to God's Word and letting it impact us in the way we live. We don't want to be just "hearers" of the Word, but also "doers". That requires a certain "posture" in the spiritual life, one of trust of God. We have to be in a place of believing that God is our loving Father, and actually has our best interest in mind. The challenge with that is that the ultimate strategy of the enemy is to convince us of exactly the opposite: God is not a loving Father, he can't be trusted, and we actually would be better off without him.

Let these words of God sink in for you. Hear them from His heart, as a loving Father. Because they all relate specifically to areas of woundedness, often ways that we have been harmed or offended by others, these words will tend to stir up emotions of anger, resistance, distancing, etc. Guard your heart! God IS our loving Father, and He desires our ultimate happiness, and every single one of these words of His are helping define the path for us to get to that ultimate fulfillment.

Key Scripture verses

Matthew 18:34-35: “And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Matthew 6:12, 14-15: “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Matthew 24:12-13: “And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

Matthew 18:21-22: “Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, how often will my brother sin against me and I forgive him? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.’”

Luke 23:33-34: “When they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.’”

Mark 5: 40-41: “And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand he said to her, ‘Talitha cum,’ which means, ‘Little girl, I say to you, arise!’”

Genesis 50:18-20: “‘Behold, we are your servants.’ But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not fear! For am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.’”

-Watch second video-

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Which of these passages stood out to you the most while watching the video content? Maybe pick two or three to discuss further and dig more deeply into them.

1. What was it about the passage that struck you? How does it challenge you?

1. As you pray with these passages, how do you feel that you struggle the most with what God is telling us about forgiveness? How is it difficult for you to apply what is being said into your own life?

1. What would it look like to apply what is being learned to the one, or two or three, areas of unforgiveness you identified in the first episode? Things God is inviting you to let go?

Take some time as you end this session to pray again together for the work of grace that God is doing in this process. Pray again for each other. Have each person in the group say a pray for the person to their right to end this second session.