

## LUKE 17:1-5 (PART 2)

26 JUNE 2022

ICE BREAKER: Describe something you bought that cost a lot.

### GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verse 3) Once a person who sinned against us has repented to us, Jesus explained the next step we must take—the step of **forgiveness**. To forgive does **not** mean to **minimize** sin, for example, “It wasn’t that bad. It only happened to me.” To forgive is not to **rationalize** it, saying “He is under a lot of stress. I know he didn’t mean to do it.” To forgive is not to **deny** it, believing, “It’s in the past. I have moved on.”

Rather, to **forgive biblically** is to **release** or **unloose** ourselves from the specific sin, which **chains us** to our **offender**. To forgive is to unlock the chains with which your offender is bound and realize you are set free.

1. Which of the three would you be in danger of confusing forgiveness: Minimizing, Rationalizing or Denying?

(Read verses 4-5 & Romans 5:6-8) A major reason we do not forgive others is we believe doing so is condoning the sin, especially if the sin is repeated. We fear forgiving another’s sin let’s the offender off the hook, keeping him from truly understanding the hurt or pain he caused. We fail to realize the Bible teaches us that **forgiveness is costly**.

Other religions teach that you pay for your sins—karma. Yes, the Bible teaches that you reap what you sow (Galatians 4:7). However, when we sin, we not only sin against the person we hurt, but also God whose law we violated. So what was **the cost to God for forgiving** our sins? The life of **His Son Jesus Christ!** So why did God forgive us? Because He loved us so! Truly, forgiveness is the opportunity to **express the highest form of love**.

2. How can knowing **forgiveness** is both **costly** and our opportunity to **show God’s love** help you to forgive?

A major **reason we do not believe we have forgiven** others is we may **not forget the sin**. Those who sinned against us often point this out to us, accusing us as hypocrites. The Bible teaches that forgiveness is not forgetting. Rather, to forgive is **to choose to not remember**, to not to bring that sin up against our violaters.

Just because you remember a sin does not mean it’s not forgiven. Do you think God has forgotten your sins? He knows every detail of your sins. However, when He forgives you, He chooses not to remember it against you. “For I will forgive their iniquity, and **I will remember their sin no more.**” (Jeremiah 31:34)

3. How could you give **Godly advice** to someone who **cannot forget the images** and **unhear the words** of a hurtful experience?

(Read verses 3-5) Jesus is clear. Each and every time someone sins against us and repents to us, we are to forgive them. Forgiveness opens the door to a new relationship with those who’ve sinned against us. When we receive God’s forgiveness for our sins, we enter a **new relationship** with Him as a child of God.

**Though forgiveness is a free gift**, and offered for every violation against us, trust is not. Trust is neither free nor a gift. **Trust is earned**. The new relationship opened by forgiveness begins with trust at zero. However, this new relationship can now grow through trust.

4. How could you counsel **biblical forgiveness** and **trust for a victim of abuse**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

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### PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)

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