



## Faith That Forgives

**Theme:** Forgiveness is an act of faith that sets us free.

**Focus Verse:** Ephesians 4:32: *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

**Other Scriptures:** Genesis 45:1–15 (Joseph forgives his brothers), Luke 23:34 (Jesus on the cross), Matthew 18:21–35 (Parable of the Unforgiving Servant), Matthew 6:14–15, and Colossians 3:13

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### Devotional Thought:

Forgiveness doesn't always feel fair. When someone hurts us, our first reaction is often anger, sadness, or wanting payback. But God calls us to something higher. Forgiveness is not about saying the wrong was okay. It's about trusting God with our pain and choosing to release bitterness.

Joseph forgave the very brothers who sold him into slavery. Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of the people who nailed Him to the cross. Both show us that forgiveness flows out of faith. We forgive because God has already forgiven us.

When we hold onto unforgiveness, we carry a heavy burden. But when we forgive, our hearts are set free, and God can heal what's been broken. Forgiveness isn't easy, but it's powerful, and it's possible through the Holy Spirit living inside of us.

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### Scripture Focus:

Read these together as a family:

**Genesis 45:4–5 (NIV):**

*Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."*

**Luke 23:34 (NIV):**

*Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.*



## **Matthew 18:21–35**

*Parable of the Unforgiving Servant*

### **Matthew 18:21–22 (NIV):**

*Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”*

*Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”*

### **Colossians 3:13 (NIV):**

*Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

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## **Talk About It:**

(Use these questions to guide your family discussion.)

- Why do you think forgiveness is so hard sometimes?
- How did Joseph’s forgiveness change his family?
- What do you think would happen if Jesus hadn’t forgiven us?
- Can you think of a time when you needed forgiveness from someone else?
- Is there anyone you need to forgive right now?

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## **Weekly Challenge:**

This week, do a **“heart check.”** Each family member should think of one person who has hurt them. Pray for that person, asking God to help you forgive.

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## **Memory Verse:**

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. - Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)*

Practice saying it together as a family this week.

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## **Family Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, thank You for forgiving us through Jesus. Help us to forgive others even when it’s hard. Take away bitterness and anger, and replace it with love and peace. Make our family a place where forgiveness flows freely, just as You forgive us. In Jesus’ name, amen.