



BECAUSE HE

Forgives

Welcome to Week 5 of Lent! In the Lord's Prayer, we will look into the meaning of God's forgiveness and how it helps us grow deeper in our faith.

Forgive us our Debts

There are three words of forgiveness in the Hebrew language which are: *kaphar* (to atone or cover over), *naga'* (to carry away burden), and *salach* (to pardon). Because we cannot pay for our own sin, God **makes atonement** for our sins and **carries away** the burden for our sin through Jesus' sacrifice. Through that, God **pardons** our mistakes as we repent and ask Him for forgiveness.

Matthew 6:12 (ESV)

"and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors"

BECAUSE OF HIS

forgiveness

We can:

- experience *grace*
- receive *healing*



BECAUSE HE

forgives

We are:

- forgiven *once and for all*
- able to *forgive others*

WE CAN EXPERIENCE GRACE

Luke 15:20 (ESV)

"And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."

- The younger son who runs away from home is prepared to shamefully come back to work as a servant. Instead, he is embraced by His father with grace and compassion.
- There is nothing we can do to earn our way back to God. In fact, God already knows what we have done and He *still* chooses to willingly forgive and lavish us with His grace!

WE CAN RECEIVE HEALING

Genesis 50:20 (ESV)

"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."

- Joseph knew God could redeem his past hurt. Even when he experienced mistreatment and betrayal from his brothers, He chose to forgive them and to receive healing from God, trusting in the power of His forgiveness.
- No past hurts or mistakes are final in His eyes. God lets them happen so we can experience healing. He wants to use these moments to help us experience His goodness!



WE ARE FORGIVEN ONCE & FOR ALL

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

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

- If we humble ourselves and admit that we have sinned, God is faithful and promises to always forgive us as we turn back to Him.
- Through Jesus' sacrifice, God cleanses us from all sin and makes us right with Him.



WE ARE ABLE TO FORGIVE OTHERS

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

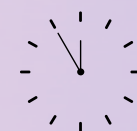
- God forgave us first, even though He didn't have to. Because of that, we are no longer guilty of our sins.
- Because we have been forgiven by Him, we can forgive others! His love enables us to show grace because His love has overcome sin and pain.

REFLECTION



- What are some moments where it is hard for you to forgive or show grace to yourself/others?
- What about that person or circumstance did you find hard to forgive? How can you trust God and turn to Him in those moments?

NEXT STEPS



- Ask others for prayer, for God to help you give grace and forgiveness to others.
- Write down one way to show grace to someone you find difficult to forgive this week, and schedule a time to do it! Share with your LCG/friend for accountability.

PRAYER



- Pray for God to help you repent, receive grace, and to forgive others.
- Pray for forgiveness in our city, for God's love to overcome any bitterness, hatred, or unresolved conflict between people.

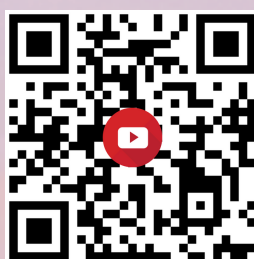


Poly U Prayer Requests

- For us to have a strong and deep understanding of the Gospel
- For more disciples who can make other disciples
- For us to reach out to the next generation

RESOURCES

Song:
As You Find Me - Hillsong United



Podcast:
All My Sins Were Canceled - So Why Continue to Confess? - John Piper



Song:
Forgiveness - Matthew West

