

**Crossroads Daily Guide**  
**Week of September 18**  
**What the World Needs Now**  
**Week 2: Forgiveness**



This week we continue our series “What the World Needs Now” by examining the difficult and complicated yet necessary gift of forgiveness. Without forgiveness we cannot survive.

Jesus is the most forgiving person who has ever lived. Time and again he spoke of the need to be kind, compassionate and loving toward one another and forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus’ message of love.

When asked by Peter how many times we should forgive someone who wrongs us, Jesus said not just seven times, but seventy-times seven. What Jesus was really saying was there is no set number. We must be willing to forgive every time we are wronged or offended. And, that also means that we need to sincerely ask for forgiveness every time we offend or hurt someone.

Jesus’ most famous words on forgiveness come in the final moments of his life when hanging on a cross in agony and with his life slipping away he is able to look down on his torturers with compassion and pray, “Father, forgive them. They don’t understand what they are doing.”

Such forgiveness seems beyond our ability to comprehend, but God’s grace is sufficient to guide us there, in the same way it guided Jesus.

Pause to be with these daily reflections and ask God to help you live every day with an intention to becoming more and more forgiving of self and others. It is what the world needs now.

If you would like to receive the reflections on your phone, then text crossroads to 41411. You receive them as a text message every morning at 7am.

**Sunday, September 18, 2016**

Luke 23:34a (CEB) *Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they’re doing.”*

**Reflection:** Forgiveness frees you from anger and resentment. When feeling anger or hurt, pause and ask God to help you search your heart for the root cause before reacting.

**Monday, September 19, 2016**

Matthew 18:21-22 *Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?” Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.*

**Reflection:** Jesus said forgiveness is a daily practice that leads you to the outcome of being a more forgiving person. Make forgiveness of self and others your goal today.

**Tuesday, September 20, 2016**

Ephesians 4:32 *Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.*

**Reflection:** Make kindness and compassion your goal today. As you go through the day pay attention to how you are moving toward the outcome of being a more forgiving person.

**Wednesday, September 21, 2016**

Matthew 6:12 *Father, forgive us for the ways we have wronged you, just as we also forgive those who have wronged us.*

**Reflection:** Who has hurt you? Whom have you have hurt? Pause and ask God to help you forgive both yourself and others. Remember your goal is to become more forgiving.

**Thursday, September 22, 2016**

Colossians 3:13 *Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other.*

**Reflection:** Forgiveness is reciprocal. God forgives. You forgive others who in turn are inspired to forgive. By making forgiveness your goal everything begins to change.

**Friday, September 23, 2016**

Matthew 5:43-44 *"You have heard that it was said, You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you.*

**Reflection:** Jesus said, love your enemies. As followers of Jesus that is our goal. Why? Forgiveness heals us physically, spiritually and emotionally. Ask God to help you.

**Saturday, September 24, 2016**

Romans 12:21 *Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.*

**Reflection:** Love is stronger than hate. Forgiveness is more powerful than revenge. Practice love and forgiveness today and watch how in the end love and forgiveness wins.