

Every Good Family... Learns to Forgive

“For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”
Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV)

I. The chosen

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.” John 15:16 (NIV)

II. The choice

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” Matthew 7:12 (NIV)

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV)

III. The challenge

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.” Galatians 6:1 (NIV)

“The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:” 1Cor 2:15 (NIV)

Small Group & Personal Reflection Questions:

1. What is the basis of God's requiring us to forgive others?
2. Why do we find it so difficult to forgive others in specific ways? What is the risk?
3. Why do you think God is so insistent that we choose to forgive rather than to hold the offense as something that is owed to us?
4. What do you think happens to you when you walk in a spirit of forgiveness?
5. What kind of church do we want to be for people who struggle with sin or fall to temptation?