

LESSON #1

FORGIVEN BY GOD #1

The Peace of Living without a Past

“STUDY STARTER” Questions

1. Can you keep a SECRET? What is the most scandalous thing you’ve ever done? Shhh. Don’t tell anyone. Just draw a line in the space below and let it remind you of *YOUR SECRET*.

Now, how does *your secret* make you feel?

2. What would it mean to you to have *your secret* forgiven? Describe your feelings.

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 13–20.

1. When we are forgiven:

- we are _____ by God
- we have something _____ by God [our sins!]

2. Which of those two do you find the most appealing and why?

3. What are the three ingredients that make for God’s grace?

_____ — God’s feeling WITH us

_____ — God’s feelings FOR us

_____ — God’s feelings TOWARD us

4. List at least three things God said about himself in Exodus 34:6-7 and, then, if you would, explain which of the three moves you the most and why.

This week’s MEMORY VERSE:

Therefore, if _____ is _____, he is a _____ creation. The old has passed away; behold, the _____ has come.

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

LESSON #2**FORGIVEN BY GOD #2****The Peace of Living without a Past****“STUDY STARTER” Questions**

1. Why do you think sin is so bad?
2. Are there BIG sins and LITTLE sins? For example, which is worse: (a) adultery or sexual harassment? (b) extortion or cheating on your IRS 1040? (c) telling a lie or telling “a story”?
3. Is something a “sin” even if we don’t know it’s a sin?

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 20–24.

1. Psalm 32:1 — What does God do when he forgives us of the sin in our past?
2. Isaiah 1:18 — What does God do when he forgives us of the sin in our past?
3. Isaiah 38:17 — What does God do when he forgives us of the sin in our past?
4. Isaiah 44:22 — What does God do when he forgives us of the sin in our past?
5. Micah 7:18–19 — What does God do when he forgives us of the sin in our past?

This week’s MEMORY VERSE:

Therefore, if _____ is _____, he is a _____ creation. The old has passed away; behold, the _____ has come.

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

LESSON #3

FORGIVEN BY GOD #3

The Peace of Living without a Past

“STUDY STARTER” Questions

1. Are you saved? — That’s a YES or NO question. “I think so” or “I hope so” won’t count.
2. Can you be sure? Can you know without a doubt that—at this moment in time—you are going to heaven? If so, how?

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 24–29.

1. What are the two basic mistakes people make when asked if they are saved?
 - Some make it:
 - Some make it:
2. These are some of the blessings we get to enjoy because of Jesus’ blood. What do they mean?

JUSTIFICATION:

REDEMPTION:

RECONCILIATION:

REMISSION:

This week’s MEMORY VERSE:

Therefore, if _____ is _____, he is a _____ creation. The old has passed away; behold, the _____ has come.

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

LESSON #4

FORGIVING MYSELF #1

The Peace of Living with Our Past

“STUDY STARTER” Questions

1. Is it OK for you to feel good about yourself despite the bad things you’ve done in the past?
2. Is it OK for you to feel bad about yourself because of the bad things in your past?

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 31–38.

1. Even though we have been forgiven by a gracious God, why do some of us not feel forgiven?
2. What does the word “contrite” mean to you? Is it a bad thing?
3. Luke 15:11–32 — The prodigal son in Jesus’ story represents us. How did his past make him feel about himself?
4. Luke 15:11–32 — The prodigal son’s father in Jesus’ story represents God, our heavenly Father. How did he feel about his son despite the son’s sinful past?

This week’s MEMORY VERSE:

We are _____ than _____ through him who
_____ US.

(Romans 8:37)

LESSON #5

FORGIVING MYSELF #2

The Peace of Living with Our Past

“STUDY STARTER” Questions

1. Are you perfect? Seriously, think about it. Are you really perfect?
2. 1 John 1:7–10 — What are three ways you and I can react to the sin in our lives?
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“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 38–41.

1. We are saved by God’s grace through Jesus’ blood when we have what kind of faith?
2. Turn to Romans 8:1 and see if you can find the answer to these questions:
 - WHEN or what time frame is this verse talking about?
 - WHAT promise is this verse talking about?
 - WHO is this verse talking about?
3. Can we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are not going to hell?

This week’s MEMORY VERSE:

We are _____ than _____ through him who
_____ US.

(Romans 8:37)

LESSON #6

FORGIVING MYSELF #3**The Peace of Living with Our Past****“STUDY STARTER” Questions**

1. Does God really forget our past when he forgives us (Hebrews 8:12; 10:17)? If so, how can we say he knows everything (Psalm 139:1–3; Hebrews 4:13)?
2. If you and I are to forgive the way God forgives (Ephesians 4:32), does that mean we can forget our past sins? If we can't, what does it mean?

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 41–47.

1. At the beginning of Psalm 32 (vv. 1–2), how did David feel? What does that say to you about forgiveness?
2. At the end of Psalm 32 (v. 10), what was it about God that made David feel that way?
3. In 1 Corinthians 15:9–10; 1 Timothy 1:12–17, how did Paul describe himself as an apostle and, then, as a sinner?
4. In 1 Corinthians 15:9–10; 1 Timothy 1:12–17, what about God made Paul know he had been forgiven?

This week's MEMORY VERSE:

We are _____ than _____ through him who
 _____ us.

(Romans 8:37)

LESSON #7**FORGIVING OTHERS #1****The Peace of Living with Others in Our Past****“STUDY STARTER” Questions**

1. You've been hurt, haven't you? What is the worst thing anyone has ever done to you? NO, don't tell. Draw a line in the space below to remind you of YOUR PAIN. Now, how do you feel about the person responsible for all that?

2. Do you think it's wrong to want that person to hurt and have vengeance levied against them?

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 49–54.

1. When Jesus taught his followers to work toward forgiving those that mistreated them, what did Peter want to know (Matthew 18:15–21)? What does that suggest to you about forgiving others?

2. When Jesus taught his followers to forgive those that mistreated them if the offender repented (Luke 17:3–5), what did the apostles request? What does that suggest to you about forgiving others?

This week's MEMORY VERSE:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, _____
_____, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with
one another and, if one has a _____ against another, forgiving each
other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also _____ forgive.

(Colossians 3:12–13)

LESSON #8

FORGIVING OTHERS #2

The Peace of Living with Others in Our Past

“STUDY STARTER” Questions

1. Is there a difference between someone hurting your feelings and, to use Jesus’ words, someone “sinning against you” (Matthew 18:15)? Explain.

2. You may not want to, but, according to Matthew 18:15-20, what are the two things Jesus wants you to do with those that need your forgiveness?

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 54–56.

1. Next to each one below, write a passage that proves forgiveness helps you be more like God
 - God the Father —
 - God the Son—
 - God the Holy Spirit—

2. You may not want to, but according to Matthew 18:15–20, what are the two things Jesus wants you to do with someone that needs your forgiveness?
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This week’s MEMORY VERSE:

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, _____
 _____, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with
 one another and, if one has a _____ against another, forgiving each
 other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also _____ forgive.

(Colossians 3:12–13)

LESSON #9

FORGIVING OTHERS #3**The Peace of Living with Others in Our Past****“STUDY STARTER” Questions**

1. If you're like me, you have to work on your attitude about those that have hurt you. It makes me wonder, “Will more miss heaven because of their attitude than their actions?” What attitude(s) would you encourage a friend to cultivate if they needed to be more forgiving?

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 56–61.

1. According to Jesus' Parable of an Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:22–35), do you have a heart willing to forgive?
 - First, we need a heart of _____ to be forgiving (vv. 26, 29). So, what does that say to you?
 - Second, we need a heart of _____ to be forgiving (vv. 27, 33). So, what does that say to you?
 - Third, we need a heart of _____ to be forgiving (v. 33). So, what does that say to you?
2. In Jesus' parable, the master (i.e., God) took back his forgiveness of all the servant owed. How would you feel if everything you had ever done was no longer forgiven because you would not forgive someone?

This week's MEMORY VERSE:

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, _____
 _____, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with
 one another and, if one has a _____ against another, forgiving each
 other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also _____ forgive.

(Colossians 3:12–13)

LESSON #10**FORGIVING GOD #1****The Peace of Living with Our Broken Past****“STUDY STARTER” Questions**

1. Think of someone you admire that has faced a lot of sadness and share their story. Do you think these bad things happened to them because they were bad people?
2. Which of the following bothers you the most, and why: (a) bad things happening to good people OR (b) good things happening to bad people?

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 63–70.

1. If you don't mind, share with others a time when you felt like God let you down.
2. Why does God let us suffer? Yes, there really is a biblical answer.

This week's MEMORY VERSE:

For the moment all discipline seems _____ rather than pleasant, but later it yields the _____ fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

(Hebrews 12:11)

LESSON #11

FORGIVING GOD #2

The Peace of Living with Our Broken Past

“STUDY STARTER” Questions

1. Could God keep you from hurting or from being hurt without using a miracle?

2. When God allows you to suffer, does that mean he doesn't care OR that he really does care?

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 71–74.

1. What do each of the following suggest as they relate to God and those times you hurt?
 - God is everywhere.

 - God has been around forever.

 - God can do anything.

 - God wants to help us.

2. If you have a concordance or a Bible software app on your phone, look for the word “help” in the Psalms and pick the one that means the most to you.

This week's MEMORY VERSE:

For the moment all discipline seems _____ rather than pleasant, but later it yields the _____ fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

(Hebrews 12:11)

LESSON #12

FORGIVING GOD #3

The Peace of Living with Our Broken Past

“STUDY STARTER” Questions

1. Think of someone who has endured a tremendous amount of sadness and finish the following: “These wonderful people have taught me to...”

2. What do you want to inspire others to be or do by the way you handle your suffering?

“STUDY HARDER” Questions — answers found in our text, *Forgiven, Forgiving & Free*, pp. 75–81.

1. Can you think of anything good that has come from some of the pain you’ve experienced?

2. What four words did we use—they start with “f”—to prove that gain can come from pain?
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3. What unique opportunity do we all have when we suffer as Christians (1 Peter 4:16)?

This week’s MEMORY VERSE:

For the moment all discipline seems _____ rather than pleasant, but later it yields the _____ fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

(Hebrews 12:11)