



Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay



Read Micah 7:18

DAY 1

Imagine if God's love worked like a bank. What if every time you messed up; God took a little bit of love out of your account? What if you had to constantly try to do good things to earn his love back? Wouldn't that be exhausting?

Here's the really good news. God's love doesn't work that way. When you mess up, His love for you doesn't change. God sent Jesus, His only Son, to die on the cross for all the mess-ups, for all the sin of the world, once and for all. God's forgiveness is complete because it came at a great cost. God gave His only Son, Jesus, because of His love for you. When we choose to forgive others, we're showing them God's great love too.

Do you have a friend who needs to know that? Is there someone in your life who doesn't know about God's love and forgiveness? Today, pray that God would help you talk to that friend. Maybe you could invite him to church or show them kindness in some cool way this week so they see a difference in you.

Read Luke 17:3-4

DAY 2

Count to seven on your hands. According to this verse, if someone does something hurtful or unkind seven times but asks each time for forgiveness, what should you do? Choose an answer below:

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| 1. Tell them to get lost | 4. Refuse to listen or forgive. |
| 2. Bring up every other time they've messed up to make your point. | 5. Tell them you don't believe they're sorry. |
| 3. Say or do something unkind to get even. | 6. Ignore them. |
| | 7. Forgive, every single time. |

Did you choose number seven? When someone messes up and asks you for forgiveness, it's okay to tell them they were wrong and how it hurt. But what's not okay is to refuse to forgive. As a Jesus follower who has already been forgiven, your job is to show that same love and forgiveness to others.

Cross out the first six answers above and write the word "FORGIVE" instead. Spend some time asking God to help you forgive, as many times as you're asked, knowing that when you forgive others, it can change them.



Read Ephesians 4:31-32

DAY 3

Think about the last time you got in a fight with your sibling or best friend. Do you remember what you fought about? Do you remember if one of you “won” the fight? Thinking back, did you do or say anything you didn’t mean that you wish you could take back?

According to Paul, who wrote these words in a letter to the church in Ephesus, what should STOP? Yep, all fighting and lying. Don’t stay mad. Be kind and tender, which also means careful, and FORGIVE.

Maybe you’re reading this thinking: “You don’t know what he did!”

Guess what? Forgiveness is still the answer. God doesn’t want you to hold onto all that anger. Instead, He wants you to have a conversation, be careful and KIND with your words and then choose forgiveness. Why? Because when you forgive others, it can change them.

To be able to forgive, you really need God’s help. Spend some time praying today and reading your Bible verse. Ask God to change your attitude towards your sibling or friend. Thank Him for choosing to forgive you, no matter what. Ask Him to help you forgive too.



Read Proverbs 20:22

DAY 4

Have you ever seen a hamster run around in one of those little wheels? That hamster could run his little legs all day and still be right where he started. While great for getting some exercise, everybody knows that hamster wheels won’t actually take you anywhere. Trying to get even is just like being stuck on a hamster wheel.

Let’s say your sister says something mean. That makes you mad so you say something mean back. Then your sister gets madder, so she says something meaner back to you. And on and on that “getting even” hamster wheel goes. Until that cycle is broken, you’ll never get anywhere.

God has a better way. Instead of getting even, God wants you to trust Him to do what only He can do so you don’t get stuck. It’s God who changes our hearts and He is the only one who can make things right.

Jog in place as you read the words of today’s verse out loud. Ask God to help you forgive, knowing that when you do, it can change people.

*When you
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