

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 100. Forgiving one another



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Luke 17:3-4

If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent', forgive him.

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Matthew 6:12; Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:27-31; Ephesians 4:32; 1 John 1:9

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

When we suffer because of what someone else has done, it is easy to react with anger, to be judgemental and to want them punished. On the other hand, some people expect Christians to behave like doormats; to let people walk all over us and to say that whatever someone has done to us does not matter. Here Jesus explains the course He wants His children to take.

If someone does something that hurts or upsets us, Jesus says we should 'rebuke' them; not lose our temper but calmly and firmly let them know that we have been hurt by what they have done. For our part, we need to forgive them, many times if necessary. In the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:12), we are reminded that we must forgive others to be forgiven ourselves. Jesus also tells us (Matthew 7:12) that we should treat others as we want them to treat us. In Ephesians 4:32, Paul tells us that we must be compassionate to one another and forgive.

Above all, we should behave as Jesus did! John 1:9 tells us, 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins.' We should try to do the same with God's help.

Of course, this begs the question, 'What do I do if someone wrongs me and won't apologise?' It is okay for us to accept that not all relationships can be fully restored without someone who has wronged us saying they are sorry. Even so, we must not be angry with them and seek revenge. We are called to go on praying for them (Luke 6:28). If we can forgive them regardless, that can be very powerful in restoring broken relationships. Treating someone who has wronged us with grace and respect can be a good example to them and to others. And it may lead them to change and to take steps to put things right.

### Reflections:

- Consider whether there is someone you have wronged and need to apologise to. How might you go about this?
- Is there any issue between you and someone who has wronged you? What steps could you take to try to start putting it right?
- Remember that, if you have said sorry to God, you are forgiven by Him, regardless of what the situation is between you and others. Thank Him for His forgiveness.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

