

## God Time – Jesus Our Restorer

Monday: John 3:13-17

Tuesday: Matthew 20:30-34

Wednesday: Luke 15:4-7

Thursday: Luke 15: 11-32

Friday: Like 5:1-11

### Keep It Active

1. Find several scriptures of reconciliation and keep them close at hand this week. Share with those that may need to be reconciled to Christ or with others in these moments. Be Christ's ambassador showing His light.
2. Use those scriptures to write a short prayer of reconciliation for whatever burdens your heart. Pray that daily and turn the burden over to Christ's hand.

### Diving Deeper

How to become a great forgiver.  
2 Corinthians 5

As believers in Christ, we live by faith not by sight, and while our desire is to be at home with the Lord, we find ourselves caught up in the great dilemma of dealing with day to day life that imposes great demands upon us while trying to live a life pleasing to God. So, how do we align our life in this world with Christ and stay faithful to God. That is the challenge. Paul said that we are to live with confidence that one day we will be with the Lord. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are, therefore, Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17-20)  
By the grace and mercy of God, we have been forgiven of our sins and

granted the righteousness of Christ through the obedience of Jesus who died on the cross so that we may be pleasing to God. It is through the blood of Jesus that we have become a child of God. He is our Father and will never cease to be so. But though there is never a loss of our relationship with our Heavenly Father, there will be a hindrance so long as we harbor bitterness and fail to forgive those who do harm to us. How are we to approach God? We cannot come into His presence if we are bitter toward others. We are commanded to love God and love others but if we are unwilling to forgive even those who wrong us, how can we approach God? It is a matter of the holiness of the heart. If we are bitter in the heart and unwilling to forgive, then God Himself will withhold forgiveness to us. Jesus taught us to pray, and ask God to forgive us for our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matt. 6:12) What Jesus wants us to understand is that forgiving others is about protecting our heart and our relationship with God. God wants us to approach Him with a pure and clean heart, and we can only do this when we can truly forgive and remove the bitterness that exists in our own heart. Many of us today, read God's word, live it out, but continue to live in the shackles of bitterness, apart from the blessings of God simply because they are unwilling to forgive. Jesus is telling us that to be in a right relationship with God requires us to remove the bitterness, to forgive as God forgave, to cleanse our hearts, and know that God will pour His blessings out on us when we act accordingly.

1. Is there someone who is "bugging" you and you just can't forget about it?
2. Why can't you let it go? Your allowing that person to "rent space" in your head – forgive them instead.... you will free yourself if you do. Know that when you truly experience God's forgiveness, you will have a reason to forgive others.
3. What does 'reconciliation' mean?
4. Is 'reconciliation' the same as forgiveness? If not, how is it different?