



## God Time – The Attitude of Forgiveness

These scriptures are selected to help you gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. They are intentionally designed for you to engage in your time alone with God. You will find them complementary to the teachings on the weekend (gatherings) and to the LIFE Group materials.

Some tips:

Use a Bible that is easy to read. The ESV or The NLT are both good translations.

Use a prayer journal. After you read the passages jot down what “jumped out” at you while reading. Then take a few minutes to write a prayer response to what you have read.

There are only five days of reading provided so if you miss a day you have time to catch up. Do not get legalistic! If you miss a day or even a week...God still loves you!

Monday: John 8:3-11

Tuesday: Mark 11:24-25

Wednesday: Luke 6:37-38

Thursday: Luke 17:3-6

Friday: Matthew 6:9-13

## Diving Deeper

The Attitudes of Jesus – The Power of Forgiveness

*Matthew 6:14-15 – But if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others of their sins, your Father will not forgive you.*

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 heart. Many of us today read God's word but continue to live in the shackles of bitterness, apart from the blessings of God simply because we 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?
3. Are you allowing that person to "rent space" in your head? What should you do instead?
4. Do you agree that you can find freedom through forgiveness?