

"I know that God is able to forgive us and even forget our sins... What does it really look like in our lives to forgive others? What should forgiveness lead to?"

1. **God's forgiveness is perfect!** (Psalm 103:8-13)
 - a. God does not forget sins. (Psalm 147:5, Heb. 4:13)
 - b. God chooses not to remember them. (Heb. 8:12; 10:17)
2. **We are to forgive others as we have been forgiven.**
(Mt. 6:14,15)
 - a. By not forgiving others we affect our fellowship with God.
 - b. By not forgiving others we may reveal our standing with God.
3. **Forgiving others is as much for our sake as for theirs!** (Rom 12:18,19)
 - a. Forgiving is taking someone off the hook with us.
 - b. Forgiving is leaving judgment to God.

Practical steps towards forgiveness:

1. Consider what you've been forgiven. (Mt 7:3)
2. Confront in love. (Mt. 18:15; 5:23,24)
3. Make the choice to forgive . (Pr 19:11)

When emotions linger...

1. Pray that God would change your heart. (Pr. 4:23)
2. Quit rehearsing the offense. (Psalm 19:14)
3. Give your heart and mind proper meditation.
(Psalm 119:11, Jn 17:17)
4. Pray for the other person. (Mt. 5:44)
5. Give it time. (Phil. 1:6)

Cell Group Questions...

1. Is forgiveness generally easy for you or hard? Explain?
2. When do you find it difficult to forgive?
3. Which would you find more comforting: A God who forgets our sin, or a God who chooses not to remember?
4. Should forgetting be a goal of forgiveness?
5. What should be our goal regarding forgiveness?