

Strengthening Families in Their Daily Walk of Faith



PARENT DEVO - EPHESIANS 4: 32

Forgiveness. A word that carries more weight, action, and strength than many things in life. Not a single one of us will walk through this life without both needing and giving forgiveness multiple times over. Our society throws around so many empty and useless sayings that are really of no assistance, and the saying “forgive and forget” is one of the worst and most Biblically inaccurate ones tossed about. We are incapable of forgetting, and we truly need the Lord’s guidance to forgive. What an unhelpful thing to base our act of forgiveness upon.

Ephesians 4:32 says, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” When Peter asks Jesus directly how many times he should forgive his brother or sister, Jesus replies, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” Matthew 18:21-22. Nothing in those words about forgiving and forgetting.

We are called to forgive over and over again. This does not mean we have to return to those which hurt us and seek to be best friends, but we are called to forgive. Why? Because look at what Christ has forgiven in us! God has given us the ultimate Grace, so of course He would call us to extend that Grace to others. You will never forget what someone has done to you, but forgiveness brings freedom to the one forgiving, and hopefully a glimpse of Jesus to the one being forgiven.

I read recently of a quote from C.S. Lewis that comes from his book *Letters to Malcolm* and praying on the Lord’s Prayer. He said, “Forgive us...as we forgive. Unfortunately there’s no need to do any festooning here. To forgive for the moment is not difficult. But to go on forgiving, to forgive the same offence again every time it recurs to the memory- there’s the real tussle.” (C.S. Lewis Institute).

You may face memories over and over in your own mind, but I can promise you that when we truly seek to understand forgiveness in action that God calls us to, that you will also be reminded when those memories creep up, how much you are forgiven by Christ!

KIDS DEVO

(Read James Matthew 18: 21-35 together with your kids.)

After reading about this parable (story) on forgiveness, how important is it to God that we forgive? Why is it so important to God that we forgive? Many many times in our lives we will have to forgive others. Sometimes it will be easy because maybe someone just hurt our feelings, but other times we face it will be much much harder. There will definitely be times where we need God’s help to forgive. There may even be times that someone is undeserving of our forgiveness. One thing that will help you and I to remember how important it is to forgive, is when we think of how much Jesus has forgiven us! We sin every single day, but everytime He shows us His grace. He loves us so much that He died for us and took all of our sins so that one day we can be with Him in Heaven! Isn’t that amazing love? Thank you Jesus for forgiving us!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Mark your calendars! We have a Family Focus Night on Friday, September 18th at the church on the lawn. Arrive at 8pm to set up your blankets and chairs. Grab some refreshments and concessions from the youth to help them raise money for youth missions. The movie will begin at dusk! We will be watching David. This is a community event, so please invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Postcards will be available to share the news!

MORE EVENTS...



The Youth Mission Trip is at Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch in Billings, MT. We leave July 23rd and return July 28th. Please keep us in your prayers!



The school supply drive has returned! Help the Board of Outreach bless our children and the children and youth of Caldwell! Supplies due by August 1st.



Skillet @ the Western Idaho Fair
Join me (Lynnette) August 25th if you want to see one of my favorite Christian bands.

7:30-9:30pm

CONCERT FREE W/ FAIR ADMISSION
ADULT (AGES 12-61): \$10
YOUTH (AGES 6-11): \$8
SENIOR (AGES 62 AND OVER): \$9
CHILD (AGES 5 AND UNDER): FREE



8/1 - School Supplies Due

8/2 - Elementary & Preschool Sunday School start back up. Located in Pre 3's & Pre 4's classrooms upstairs.

9/6 - Youth Groups Resumes

9/6 - Regular Sunday School Resumes