

WHAT IS KEEPING YOU FROM FORGIVING?

DAY 5

Read Proverbs 16:18. What does the Bible say might happen if you have pride? You might _____.

In life, we are always moving one direction or another. And each step we take can either be toward life-giving situations: like forgiveness—or it can lead to our own downfall: like pride.

So often pride gets in the way of forgiveness. Maybe we are embarrassed to admit that we've messed up. It definitely takes humility to apologize to someone. Or maybe we are too prideful to forgive someone. We are mad, and we don't think they deserve our forgiveness.

Whether it's pride, anger, embarrassment or any other emotion getting in the way of moving toward forgiveness, we need to release it. In fact, that might be the first step we take: the step over pride, the step over anger. With that obstacle out of the way, forgiveness is in our reach.

Talk to God and ask Him to help you step over whatever might be in your way and keeping you from forgiving someone. Ask Him to help you take a step toward forgiveness today.

FORGIVENESS

DECIDING THAT SOMEONE
WHO HAS WRONGED YOU
DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY

DAY 1

Go to Studio252.tv and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show. (Click on *Fun2Watch!* then *The So & So Show.*)

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

SO & SO TOP 3

After watching, write one thing that . . .

1) YOU LIKED: _____

2) YOU LEARNED: _____

3) YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW: _____

DAY 2

Read Matthew 5:1-2, 23-24

Using the boxes bellow, draw a comic strip style illustration of Matthew 5:23-24.

<i>(You with a present for God)</i>	<i>(You remembering a past situation you messed up and hurt someone)</i>	<i>(You asking for forgiveness and offering a present to the person you hurt)</i>	<i>(You coming back to pick up your gift and offering it to God)</i>
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Jesus believes forgiving others is so important that He was saying we need to make things right with others before we make things right with God. Whoa!

Making things right with others might mean forgiving them, or it might mean humbling yourself enough to ask someone else for forgiveness. Whatever it takes to make the peace, Jesus challenges us to take the first step.

DAY 3

Taking the first step to forgive—or to ask for forgiveness—neither one of those is an easy step to take.

Today, go on a prayer walk, either around the inside of your house, or with a parent's permission, around the outside or in your neighborhood. With each step you take, talk to God about forgiveness, using one of the situations below:

- If there's a specific situation in your life where you know you need to ask forgiveness, ask God for boldness and courage to take the first step and ask for forgiveness.
- If someone else needs to experience your forgiveness, ask God to help you bravely offer it.
- Or if you feel that you're at peace with everyone right now, ask God to give you a forgiving attitude, so you're always ready to take that first step toward forgiveness.

As you close your prayer, ask God to direct your steps today toward forgiveness.

DAY 4

Yesterday you prayed for courage and boldness to take the first step toward forgiveness.

Asking God for help is super important, but now it's time for you to take the first step.

Today, find the person you need to ask forgiveness from—or who you need to forgive—and take that first step. That step will look different based on the situation, but it might look like . . .

- Telling a friend you've been angry because of something they did, but telling them you're not mad any more, and you'd like to make the peace. Suggest something fun you can do together to move on!

- Apologizing to a family member for something you did. Ask for their forgiveness. End the conversation with a hug or a high-five.
- If you don't have any ongoing situations in your life that require forgiveness at the moment, find a friend or family member who also trusts God and share with them what you've learned about forgiveness. Ask them to hold you accountable for being the one who always takes the first step toward forgiveness.

As you walk away from your friend, notice the step you took toward forgiveness made your own steps a lot lighter!

