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FEB 12 - APR 16  
9 & 11 am



# GROWING CLOSER TO GOD

## Through Forgiveness | Part II

Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh  
Cedar Grove Church | April 2, 2017

## LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE



**WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS**

Some of us are still trying to heal from **emotional** trauma(s) that occurred many years ago. Unhealed hurts cannot only be harmful, they can actually end up creating distance between us and **Jesus**.

*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **John 8:44***

1. He is a **liar** and the father of all lies!
2. Whenever He opens **his mouth** He speaks a lie.
3. He is a **thief**.
4. The devil is committed creating **division**.

His greatest scheme, has to do with his knowledge of **our weakness** to hold onto a hurt and our willingness to break off relationship.

***10** Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, **11** in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. **2 Corinthians 2:10-11***

*9 Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

*6 The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. 7 Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. 8 I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. 2 Corinthians 2:6-8*

At the end of the day nothing marks a true disciple of Jesus more than His or her willingness to **forgive!**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Start off by describing a time in your life when you found it hard to forgive someone.**

If the details are too hard to go into that's okay. Just describe how you wrestled with forgiving and where you ended up?

2. **Share a story of either giving or receiving forgiveness.**

If you don't have your own story; share one that you have either read about or witnessed in the life of another.



Leaders, have your group pair up for these questions.

## APPLICATION

### STOP & PRAY | Choosing Forgiveness

Let's be honest, some things in life are incredibly hard to forgive and forgiveness can only be given as we draw on the strength of Jesus.

The exhortation of Paul to STOP PUNISHING in 2 Corinthians 2 stands out to me.

Is there anyone in your life that you are still punishing by withholding yourself in any way for any reason (emotionally, physically, spiritually)? Pray about this with your partner.



**Close by praying for the group.**

# NOTES