



Bible Studies

Forgiveness Study Five



*Jesus said:
“But I tell
you: love your
enemies and
pray for those
who persecute
you.”*

Matthew 5:44

To Forgive

- To excuse for a fault or an offence; pardon.
- To renounce anger or resentment against.
- To absolve from payment of (a debt, for example).

Forgiveness is the elimination of all desire for revenge and personal ill will toward those who deeply wrong or betray us. This elimination usually brings an inner peace of heart and the freedom of not having our lives defined by the injuries we have suffered. (Rev D Showalter)

Look up the following Scriptures:

God forgives

- 2 Chronicles 7:14
- Jeremiah 33:8

Forgiveness and prayer

- Matt 6:12 Part of the Lord's Prayer
- Mark 11:25

Jesus teaching on forgiveness

- Matt 6:14-15; Luke 6:37; What happens when we forgive others?
- Matt 18:21-22, 35, Luke 17:3-4; How often should we forgive?
- Luke 23:34; What was Jesus attitude to those who maltreated him?
- John 20:23; What happens if we don't forgive others?

What did Paul teach on forgiveness?

- Col 3:13, Eph 4:32

The problem with unforgiveness: what does it cause?

- Heb 12:15



Titin and her new husband Jusuf. Titin is now pregnant and happy to be involved with Jusuf in the work of the Bible College

*Jesus said,
“Forgive and
you will be
forgiven.”*

Luke 6:37



Gladys and Esther Staines

Imagine

You live in a country where Christians are ostracised and maltreated. Your husband has been killed for sharing his faith in Christ. Your children have been taken away by your husband's relatives because you are not a Muslim. You grieve. But you find grace in your faith and are able to forgive your husband's attackers.

In many countries today this scenario happens over and over.

Forgiving persecutors

Titin from Indonesia was left alone with a small son, when her husband, Septer, was murdered in a deliberate attack because of his faith. She was very grateful to Open Doors for their support of her (even though she declined any economic help), saying that the most encouraging thing was to know that believers around the world were praying for her. This enabled her to come to a place of forgiveness.

Titin has been able to carry on with some of the work her husband was doing in the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Indonesia.

Meet Gladys Staines

You may have heard the story of Gladys Staines, a Christian missionary in India, whose husband and two boys were burned to death in their car by Hindu extremists.

Gladys and her daughter, by experiencing God's forgiveness themselves, were able to forgive those who carried out this horrific act and even to go back and continue her husband's work. Gladys writes, "Forgiveness brings healing. It allows the other person a chance to start life afresh. If I have something against you and I forgive you, the bitterness leaves me. It also allows you to accept the forgiveness and move on. Forgiveness liberates both the forgiver and the forgiven."

How was I able to forgive? The truth is that I myself am a sinner. I needed Jesus Christ to forgive me. Because I have forgiveness in my own life, it is possible for me to forgive others"

This is a powerful testimony of the healing which comes from forgiveness. There is power in forgiveness.

Action Point

Take a look at your own life. Is there anyone you need to forgive? Why not do it now? Forgiveness is a decision, not a feeling.

Open Doors supports many Christian women in situations like these.

What can you do?

Pray, Write letters, Keep up to date

To find out more visit our website or phone the Open Doors office

Prepared by Annie Cullen

Open Doors Australia
PO Box 6237
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

T (02) 9451 2999
F (02) 9451 2988
E odaustralia@od.org
I www.opendoors.org.au



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