



Sermon Discussion Guide

July 12 & 13, 2025

"How Can We Love & Forgive Everyone Always"

[Colossians 3:12-17](#)

Faith Meets the Real World is a new sermon series that explores how our faith in Jesus shapes the way we live in everyday situations—at home, at work, in relationships, and in the world around us. Each week, we'll tackle one big question about how to follow Jesus in real, practical ways that bring hope, healing, and light to a broken world.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on hopeonline.tv. Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Colossians 3:12-17](#) – **"Living the New Life"**

- What words or phrases in this passage make you feel drawn toward or hesitant about the idea of forgiveness?
- How does understanding that God forgave you shape your willingness to forgive others?
- Have you experienced the peace of Christ after choosing to forgive someone?
- Who in your life is watching how you respond to being wronged, and what are they learning from you?

Read [Matthew 18:21-35](#) – **"Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor"**

- What emotions rise up when you hear Jesus say we must forgive "70 times seven"?
- What does this parable reveal about the seriousness of withholding forgiveness after receiving grace?
- How does the servant's refusal to forgive reflect a misunderstanding of the grace he was given?
- What responsibility do we carry when we've received much grace, as shown by the king's reaction in the parable?

Read [Romans 12:17-21](#) – **"A Living Sacrifice to God"**

- How does the idea of not repaying evil for evil make you feel—hopeful, frustrated, or something else? What would it take for you to stop seeking revenge and begin trusting God's justice instead?
- Why does Scripture call us to "overcome evil with good" instead of simply avoiding evil?
- What does it look like in your daily life to feed your enemy or give them something to drink?
- How can you mentor others to resist the cycle of vengeance and instead walk in mercy?

Read [Luke 23:32-34](#) – **"The Crucifixion"**

- What is your initial reaction to Jesus saying, "Father, forgive them," while being crucified? Why would Jesus offer forgiveness to people who didn't ask for it and didn't deserve it?
- When have you found it difficult to forgive someone who never apologized?
- How do you think Jesus was able to forgive while enduring such injustice and pain?
- What would it look like to extend this kind of radical forgiveness in leadership, parenting, mentoring, or ministry?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week ...

- **Let it begin with one.** Think of one person who has wronged you recently or long ago. This week, take the first step toward forgiveness. You don't have to feel it yet. Just begin by praying for them, asking God to soften your heart, and help you release the grudge.
- **Choose the better story.** Write down the offense someone committed against you and how it has impacted your thoughts, emotions, and relationships. Then, prayerfully decide to stop rehearsing the injury or telling the story as a way of justifying your pain. Instead, choose to begin writing a new story, one shaped by grace, freedom, and trust in Jesus' justice.
- **Live the cross-shaped life.** Offer forgiveness this week to someone who hasn't asked for it and may never do so. You don't need to reconcile if it's not safe, but you can still release your right to revenge or bitterness. Take time afterward to reflect, journal, or share with a trusted Christian friend or group member about what changed in you through the act of grace.