

### Warm Up

I apologize:

- more than I should (sorry), for everything (whoops), all the time (my bad).
- quickly, and I move on.
- occasionally, through gritted teeth.
- for what?

### In the Word

Read Psalm 51:1-17.

- What attributes of God are mentioned in verses 1 and 2?
- Do you think of these when you confess your sins?
- Did a word or phrase stand out to you?

Read Psalm 86:5.

- How is God described?
- What is He ready to do?
- What process, cost or sacrifice is required to receive what God has for us?

### Discussion Questions

What's the relationship between apologizing and receiving forgiveness?

With what do you struggle most:

- Admitting fault/sin/wrongdoing?
- Accepting responsibility for it?
- Asking for forgiveness?

When seeking forgiveness, who is easier to ask: God? Others? Yourself?

### Thought for the Week

It can be very hard to go to God in confession and ask for forgiveness. Once this has been done, have you ever continued to struggle with forgiving yourself? This week, ask the Lord to help you see what He's forgiven but, for some reason, you've been unable to let go. Ask Him to help you release what he has so lovingly forgiven already.



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#### Our Purpose

why we exist

The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God.

#### Our Mission

what we do

Love God • Love People • Make Disciples

#### Our Core Values

how we do it

**Worship** - lifting up the name of the Lord Jesus Christ  
**Connect** - living in community, loving and supporting one another  
**Grow** - equipping believers to live in obedience to God's Word  
**Serve** - helping people discover and use their God-given talents  
**Reach** - transforming lives and communities with the good news of Jesus Christ

#### Contact Information

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# THE LAST SEVEN WORDS

**WORD 1: FORGIVENESS**  
APRIL 14/15

## Forgiveness

Luke 23:33  
Pastor Rick Countryman

*When they came to a place called the Skull, the soldiers crucified Jesus and the criminals—one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, because they don't know what they are doing."*

*The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" A sign was fastened to the cross above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!"*  
Luke 23:33-39 (NLT)

*When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long... My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me. All my guilt is gone.*  
Psalm 32:3-5 (NLT)

*My guilt overwhelms me—it is a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and stink because of my foolish sins. I am bent over and racked with pain. All day long I walk around filled with grief.*  
Psalm 38:4-6 (NLT)

### How people try to deal with guilt

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ others

*[The LORD God asked,] "Have you eaten from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat?" The man replied, "It was the woman you gave me who gave me the fruit, and I ate it." Then the LORD God asked the woman, "What have you done?" "The serpent deceived me," she replied. "That's why I ate it."*  
Genesis 3:11-13 (NLT)

*People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the LORD.*  
Proverbs 19:3 (NLT)

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ it

*... you may be sure that your sin will find you out.*  
Numbers 32:23 (NLT)

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ it

#### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to others

#### 5. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. \_\_\_\_\_ it

## How the Bible wants me to deal with guilt

### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ my sin

*If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.*  
1 John 1:8 (NLT)

### There are two kinds of people in the world:

**People who are broken and sinful and know it.**

**People who are broken and sinful and won't admit it.**

*Let us examine and see what we have done and then return to the LORD.*  
Lamentations 3:40 (NCV)

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ for my sin

*Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins. Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just. For I was born a sinner—yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. But you desire honesty from the womb, teaching me wisdom even there. Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.*  
Psalm 51:1-10 (NLT)

### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ for forgiveness

*But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*  
1 John 1:9 (NLT)

*O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help.*  
Psalm 86:5 (NLT)

*They refused to obey and didn't pay attention to the miracles you did for them; instead, they rebelled and appointed a leader to take them back into slavery in Egypt! But you are a God of forgiveness, always ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and full of love and mercy.*  
Nehemiah 9:17 (LB)

*For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.*  
Romans 3:23-24 (NLT)

*Yes, all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal; yet now God declares us "not guilty" of offending him if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins.*  
Romans 3:23-24 (LB)



### Memory Verse

*But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just and to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.*  
1 John 1:9 (NLT)

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### Monday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Review the sermon outline and read through all the verses. Through which verse did God speak to you? Spend time meditating on the verse. What do you sense God saying to you?

From the sermon notes, how does God want you to deal with guilt?

How have you dealt with the guilt of your sin?

### Tuesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Matthew 6:14-15 and Mark 11:25. What are you to do with grudges or offenses? Why is this an important part of the prayer process?

What is the consequence if you do not follow the process Jesus gives?

How do you feel when Jesus tells you to forgive someone who has offended or hurt you deeply? Why is it difficult to forgive?

What did it cost Jesus to forgive your sins? What has it cost you to forgive others?

### Wednesday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read John 8:1-11. Where was Jesus teaching and what did the Pharisees do? What was the purpose of their actions and what does this tell you about them?

How could it be beneficial to be caught in the act of sin?

What do you think Jesus wrote on the ground?

How did Jesus address the accusers, and how did they respond? What does this teach you?

How did Jesus deal with the woman? What do you learn about the grace and forgiveness of God in this passage?

### Thursday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Matthew 18:21-35. What did Peter ask Jesus? What was Jesus' answer? What point was Jesus making?

In the parable, what did the servant owe the king? How did the king intend to deal with the debt?

What did the servant ask of the king, and how did the king respond? What does this tell you about these men?

### Friday – Begin the day in prayer; meditate on the memory verse.

Read Matthew 18:21-35. After having his debt forgiven, what did the servant do? How did his debt compare to the debt he was owed?

How did the king then deal with the unforgiving servant?

Who does the king represent? Who does the unforgiving servant represent?

What was Jesus' point in this story?

### Personal Reflection & Application

What lesson can you apply from this study?

Who do you need to forgive?

### Reaching Out

Extend the same forgiveness you have received to someone you don't believe deserves it from you.