

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. When was the last time someone forgave you?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Please begin by reading Matthew 5:38-42. Right off the bat Jesus quotes a passage from Leviticus 24:19-20 which says "eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth..."). What is Jesus' response to that particular law?
3. Share about a time when it was difficult for you to "resist an evil person" in your own life? What made it so difficult?
4. When Jesus says "Turn the other cheek" what was he saying? Is this a call to pacifism, or was there another meaning here? (Read the following quote if needed...)
"A slap to one's face was not intended to cause physical harm but was intended as a terrible indignity, in which one human created in the image of God is treating another human being as even less than a human! A slave would rather receive a rod or whip across the back than a slap from their master's hand!"
5. Please give an example of a time when you wanted revenge, but instead you forgave. Was it difficult? Easy? Explain...
6. Please read Romans 12:17-21. Please explain verses 17 and 18 in your own words.
 - a. According to this passage, how should you respond when someone hurts you?

- b. As you look at our world today, do you think very many people are responding to hurt like this passage tells us to? Why/why not?

 - c. According to verse 21, we are not to be overcome by evil, but are to overcome evil with good. Can you explain that a little more? How does one overcome evil with good?
7. Please read 1 Samuel 24:1-13. Why didn't David kill Saul when he had the chance?
- a. David felt guilty and confronted Saul, how did Saul respond to David?
8. Are you dealing with thoughts of revenge against someone in your life? If so, what are some good first steps to working on forgiveness?

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- "The old law about an eye for an eye leaves everybody blind." - Martin Luther King Jr.
- It is MUCH EASIER to respond with haste rather than with love and forgiveness.
- CHALLENGE: This week, contact that person who hurt you, and tell them you have forgiven them.
- TAKE IT A STEP FURTHER: Go out of your way to SERVE that person by doing something nice/unexpected for them this week.