



# I Declare

## Week 5: A Forgiving Spirit

### CCV Groups Discussion Guide

#### OPENING QUESTION:

What is the most radical story of forgiveness you've ever heard. Why did it impact you so much?

#### GROUPS VIDEO GUIDE

#### READ:

[Matthew 6:5-15](#)

#### DISCUSS:

- Share a time when you were shown unexpected forgiveness. How did that make you feel?
- [Colossians 3:13](#), “Bear with each other and **forgive one another** if any of you has a grievance against someone. **Forgive as the Lord forgave you.**” How have you, can you, or should you apply this to your life? Be specific.
- Sometimes, the hardest person to forgive is yourself. Why do you think that is?
- What are the benefits of forgiving others (or yourself)?
- Who is someone in your life you need to forgive? This week, take a step toward forgiveness through prayer or a conversation.

#### PRAYER:

Encourage each person to pray this prayer, repeating each line after you. When it comes to the person’s name, ask them to say it silently: “God, I’m forgiving \_\_\_\_\_ today because you forgave me. I’m choosing to forgive regardless of how I feel or how they respond. I’m releasing the debt to you and replacing it with your love. Fill me with your kindness, your joy, and your peace so I can be a blessing to everyone around me - including those who’ve hurt me. I’m rejoicing in YOU because of what you’re doing in ME. Amen.”

## SCRIPTURES:

**Matthew 6:12**, “And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

**Matthew 6:14–15**, “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

**Matthew 18:21–22**, “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’”

**Mark 11:25**, “And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

**Luke 6:37**, “Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

**Luke 17:3–4**, “If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”

**Luke 23:34**, “Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.’”

**John 8:36**, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

**Romans 12:18**, “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

**Romans 12:21**, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

**Ephesians 4:2**, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

**Ephesians 4:32**, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

**1 Peter 3:8–9**, “Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.”