



FORGIVENESS

- **Family time**
 - Ask a few to share a time where they experienced forgiveness from someone else. How did it feel? Why do you think it felt so good?
- **Share applications from last or previous weeks**
 - Has anyone been able to be more honest with God in the last week? How has this changed your time with Him?
 - Has anyone felt more challenged to deal more honestly in a certain relationship?

Read Matthew 7:1-5. "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. ² For you will be treated as you treat others.^[a] The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.^[b]

³ "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye^[c] when you have a log in your own? ⁴ How can you think of saying to your friend,^[d] 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye.

Do you remember the Great Commandment from week 1 (Matthew 22:37-40)? How is forgiveness essential to fulfilling our call to "Love God and love others?"

Break into groups of three or four and do the following:

- Read Jeremiah 31:34, focusing mainly on the last sentence. What is the difference between forgiving an offense and forgetting it ever happened?
- When we pray, "Lord, I did it again," what does He say in reply?

Jeremiah 31:34 - ³⁴ And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the LORD. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

Memory verse for the week : "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Jeremiah 31:34).

Vision

- Matthew 5:21-24.
- On the back of your paper answer the following:
 - Is there anyone that you are currently holding a grudge against that would feel great to forgive and let it go? Anyone you dread running into?
 - How could you demonstrate that the slate has been wiped clean? What are some practical ways you can show God and them that you are serious about forgiveness?
- **Pray**