

## SERIES DISCUSSION GUIDE



**SACRED**  
**CHAD BRUEGMAN**  
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If you would like to watch the message, visit [rpc.me/messages](https://rpc.me/messages).

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### MESSAGE RECAP

This week, we kicked off a new series called *Sacred*—a collection of powerful, real-life stories from people in our church. Why stories? Because your story is sacred—the good, the bad, and even the messy. Every story matters, and when combined with what God has done in your life, it can become a powerful witness of hope, healing, and breakthrough for others.

In this first week, we heard an extraordinary story of forgiveness from Kent Whitaker, a man who lost his wife and son in a planned family murder—only to discover his surviving son was responsible. Despite the unimaginable pain, Kent chose to forgive, not because it was easy, but because of his faith in a God who first forgave us.

Jesus didn't suggest forgiveness—He commanded it. Why? Not to burden us, but to set us free. Forgiveness is a breakthrough that opens the door to peace and healing, and it's not something we can do alone. When we ask God to help us forgive, He meets us with grace and begins the process of changing our hearts—so we can walk in freedom and help others do the same.

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### WARM-UP QUESTION

- What's a small grudge you've held (like someone cutting you off in traffic or stealing your leftovers)? How did you deal with it?
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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Forgiveness feels impossible sometimes. Have you ever struggled to forgive someone? Why do you think it's so difficult?
2. Read Matthew 18:21-22. How many times did Jesus say we should forgive someone who wrongs us? What does this passage reveal about forgiveness? (*Peter thought seven times was generous, but Jesus responded with a number so high it was unlimited. Jesus wasn't offering a suggestion—He was giving a command.*)
3. Why does Jesus ask us to forgive? (*Ultimately, God wants healing and freedom for us. Forgiveness sets our hearts free and opens the door to peace – even when it's hard.*)
4. What does forgiveness mean to you? How does that align or differ from what Jesus teaches?
5. Kent shared that forgiveness isn't forgetting or excusing someone's actions. How does that challenge or change your understanding of forgiveness?
6. What are some other common misconceptions about forgiveness? (*Examples: Forgiveness erases the pain; healing is instant; we can do it on our own without God's help.*)
7. How can unforgiveness impact your thoughts, emotions, or relationships? (*Unforgiveness doesn't just impact "that person"—it impacts you and may be keeping you from the freedom, healing, and peace God has planned for you.*)
8. Kent said he couldn't forgive on his own—he needed God's help. Have you ever asked God to help you forgive or even to help you want to forgive? If not, what holds you back?
9. What does it mean to forgive someone but still feel anger or hurt later? (*Forgiveness is a choice; healing takes time. Forgiveness plants the seed of healing, but the human heart needs time to fully recover from the hurt.*)
10. Read Jeremiah 31:3-4. How do these verses speak to you? What word or phrase stands out?

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## APPLICATION QUESTION

- Forgiveness often starts with honesty. Where in your life do you need God's help to forgive someone—or even want to forgive someone?
  - What's one small step you could take toward healing? (e.g., write down what was lost, ask God for help, or pray for the person who hurt you - even if you're not ready to mean it yet).

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## SUMMARY

- Forgiving isn't forgetting. It's choosing freedom over bitterness.
- Forgiveness doesn't justify someone's actions or let them off the hook for the consequences.
- Forgiveness is a decision; healing is a journey. Feeling hurt or anger again doesn't mean you failed—it means you're still walking through the process. Keep asking God to meet you there.
- Forgiveness isn't something we can do alone by trying harder - we need God's help.

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## CLOSING PRAYER

Your closing prayer can include:

1. **Gratitude** – *Thank You, Lord, for this time together to study Your Word.*

2. **Acknowledgment of new insights** – *We are grateful for the wisdom You have given us today.*
  3. **Request for guidance** – *As we go into our week, help us remember what we've learned and give us the courage to obey Your calling. Amen.*
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**LEADERS:** Palm Sunday Baptism will be on Sunday, April 13 after all services. Encourage people to sign up ([rpc.me/baptism](http://rpc.me/baptism) or [westend.me/baptism](http://westend.me/baptism)) and plan to come and support them! Baptism is a great next step of obedience for someone to take to grow their relationship with Christ. You don't have to be a member of RPC|WE to be baptized.