

# LIFE Group Leader Handout

March 10, 2019

**LinkedUp--...and forgive our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors**

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## **Scripture--from Mark 11 and Matthew 6**

*24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

*25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”* (Mark 11:24-25)

*14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.* (Matthew 6:14-15)

## **Main Idea--Our Practice of Forgiving Others Evidences Our True Faith in God**

God's Incentives--

- The Biggest Carrot--Mark 11:24-25 (see above)
- The Largest Stick--Matthew 6:14-15 (see above)

God is looking to incentivize this behavior. Why?

- Better for His kingdom
- Better for us

*'Resentment Is Like Taking Poison And Waiting For The Other Person To Die'*

God says: Forgive others because you have received forgiveness from me. (Matthew 18)

Restored Fellowship with God: Confess: ὁμολογέω homologeō; to say the same thing as another, i.e. to agree with, assent

Understanding Forgiveness--Six Don'ts...

- Don't excuse them
- Don't accuse them
- Don't wait for feelings.
- Don't confuse forgiveness and restoration.
- Don't hold on to the offense. "If I forgive them, they may do it again."
- Don't take God's place.

Why God's greatest incentives? It's the hardest thing we do.

## **Application--**

- Can you give a confirming testimony of the freedom that is found in forgiveness?
- What "don't" about forgiveness are you most likely to fall into?
- How will this message bring a stronger testimony to your life?