

GUIDED *to the* CROSS



Session 1
GUIDED TO FORGIVENESS



Session 2
GUIDED TO HOPE



Session 3
GUIDED TO LOVE



Session 4
GUIDED TO PEACE



Session 5
GUIDED TO TRUST



Session 6
GUIDED TO PERSEVERANCE

A 6-SESSION **BIBLE STUDY**
FOR LENT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 4

SESSION 1

Guided to Forgiveness 5-8

SESSION 2

Guided to Hope 9-13

SESSION 3

Guided to Love 14-18

SESSION 4

Guided to Peace 19-23

SESSION 5

Guided to Trust 24-28

SESSION 6

Guided to Perseverance 29-34

By Mark Zimmermann. Images: Adobe Stock. © 2024 by Creative Communications
for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026.

800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com

All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

GCSG

INTRODUCTION

FOR THE WORD OF THE CROSS IS FOLLY TO THOSE WHO ARE PERISHING, BUT TO US WHO ARE BEING SAVED IT IS THE POWER OF GOD (1 Corinthians 1:18). The cross is the central focus of the season of Lent. It is not just a symbol to us as Christians, but it is a driving force that pulls us closer to Christ and motivates us to journey forward in our faith. In this world where we can be guided by so many other distractions, it is important to remember that the cross is the only place where we can truly find our source of forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. Let the cross be your guide through this Bible study.

SESSION 1



Guided to Forgiveness

*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

OPENING PRAYER

O Christ, guide us to your cross and to the forgiveness of sins we find there. Only through your sacrifice on the cross are our sins forgiven. Help us to remember to come to you confessing this Lent, so that we may be refreshed and renewed by your grace to forgive others as you have forgiven us. Amen.

DISCUSSION

When was the last time you said, “I’m sorry” to someone? What does it feel like to receive forgiveness?

INTRODUCTION

We live in a world that is not very forgiving. Instead of remembering that the Lord said “Vengeance is mine,” people more often than not feel

that vengeance is theirs, and they must punish whoever has wronged them in some way. Our overabundance of lawsuits these days bears that out. But we as Christians are called by our Lord and Savior, Jesus, to be first and foremost a forgiving people. Jesus at so many moments in his ministry explains that we should be as forgiving to others as he has been to us. How forgiving is that? Completely forgiving with no conditions or amendments. No matter what we have done, Christ forgave us on the cross. Now it is our turn to be just as fully forgiving.

THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

1. **Read Matthew 18:21-35.** Why do you think Peter was asking about how often to forgive someone? What does Jesus' initial answer indicate?
2. Why do you think Jesus chose to tell the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant at that particular moment?
3. What is the servant's plea to the king? Can we relate?
4. Why is the king's forgiveness toward the servant significant?
5. What is the meaning behind the fellow servant's debt?
6. What is the fellow servant's plea?
7. Why do you think the unforgiving servant is so angry?
8. What happens to those who do not forgive?
9. What is Jesus' overall point in this parable?

TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

1. **Read Matthew 5:38-40.** How are Jesus' suggestions here counter to human nature?
2. What does forgiveness require of the forgiver?
3. How do you think the wrongdoer in these scenarios would respond?
4. How does forgiveness change relationships?

FATHER, FORGIVE THEM

1. **Read Luke 23:32-38.** What are Jesus' first words from the cross? Why is that important?
2. Who were those in need of forgiving around the cross? What were they doing?
3. **Read Romans 7:15-20.** How do these verses help us understand what Jesus is talking about when he says, "They know not what they do" (Luke 23:34)?
4. Why does it feel that Jesus is praying for us in this moment, too?
5. **Read Romans 7:24-25a.** Why are we so wretched? Who can free us from our wretchedness?

RESPONSIVE READING—PSALM 51:7-12

- L** *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;*
C **wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**
- L** *Let me hear joy and gladness;*
C **let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**
- L** *Hide your face from my sins,*
C **and blot out all my iniquities.**
- L** *Create in me a clean heart, O God,*
C **and renew a right spirit within me.**
- L** *Cast me not away from your presence,*
C **and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**
- L** *Restore to me the joy of your salvation,*
C **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

HYMN

Just As I Am

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

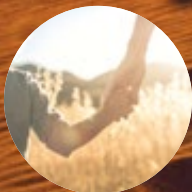
CLOSING PRAYER

Forgiving Jesus, thank you for remembering us from the cross and granting us pardon from our sins. Let us live a life of forgiveness in our interactions with others, and let us be humble in our receiving of forgiveness when we have wronged someone else. May the cross serve as a constant reminder to us this Lent that we receive forgiveness only through the blood of Christ. Amen.

GUIDED TO ACTION

Memorize Ephesians 4:32 (below), and say it to yourself every day this week as you live these words out in your life.

*Be kind to one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving
one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.*



GUIDED *to the* CROSS

A 6-SESSION **BIBLE STUDY**
FOR LENT

This Bible study for Lent guides us to the cross of Christ. In-depth Scripture readings in this guide draw participants to the forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance found at Calvary. Study and discussion questions, prayers and reflections help to give a better understanding of the richness of Christ's sacrifice. The large-format Leader's Guide includes all answers, helpful notes and session directions.

By Mark Zimmermann. Images: Adobe Stock. © 2024 by Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026.

800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com

All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

GCSG