

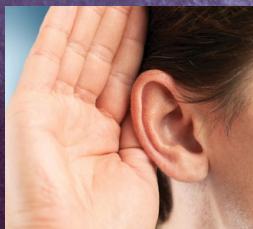
SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND



Session 1
FORGIVER



Session 2
HEALER



Session 3
LISTENER



Session 4
ENCOURAGER



Session 5
PROTECTOR



Session 6
COMFORTER

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



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INTRODUCTION

*I have called you friends, for all
that I have heard from my Father
I have made known to you.
John 15:15*

Jesus is our Savior, Servant and Friend. He rescues us from sin. He humbles himself to help us in our need, and he is our constant companion through life. Lent is a time when all of these attributes of Jesus come together in beautiful fashion in his suffering, death and resurrection. Let these and other remarkable facets of our Lord take center stage in this Bible study, as we explore the depth of their meanings for us as his followers and friends.

SESSION 1



FORGIVER

And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?”

LUKE 7:48-49

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, the true test of any friendship is a willingness to forgive the other. And you not only forgive our many sins, but you love us unconditionally in spite of them all. Your role as forgiver is shown most clearly on the cross, when you declared, “Father, forgive them” (Luke 23:34), even though our sins had put you there. Let our prayer today be that we be just as forgiving to others as you have been to us. May we be that forgiving friend. Amen.

DISCUSSION

How does Jesus help you to be a more forgiving friend?

INTRODUCTION

We are blessed with Savior who forgives us every day. In this world of sin, we are still prone to disobeying our Lord and his Law again and again. But again and again, when we confess our sins to him, Jesus says to us in love, “I forgive you.” He gives us a clean slate to start anew in following our Friend, Jesus, on the path he has marked out for us. And as his forgiven people, we are free to love and adore him in worship, in prayer and in the study of his Word. We are also free to forgive one another, not just once but daily too, and we grow together as his disciples to become more like Christ in word and deed.

RETURN TO GOD

1. **Read Joel 2:12-17.** The word *repent* literally means to turn back. So when we repent of our sins, we are turning back to God. But why is it hard for us to repent and return to God sometimes?
2. What attributes of God make it easier to return to him for forgiveness?
3. What else does God often leave behind for us through his forgiveness?
4. What positive impacts have you seen in your own life through God’s forgiveness toward you or others?
5. What are we called to do in response to God’s forgiveness?
6. When are you most eager to receive forgiveness?
7. When is it hard for you to accept forgiveness?
8. God truly does forgive and forget. Why is it so often hard to forget the sins we have done or the sins done against us?
9. Why is it good to know that there is no end to the forgiveness of God?

LIVING FORGIVEN

1. **Read Romans 6:1-14.** Just because we can be forgiven over and over, that does not give us the license to keep on sinning. What should we do instead?
2. What should our new life in Christ be like?
3. Why does sin no longer have dominion over us?

DON'T THROW STONES

1. **Read John 8:2-11.** Why are we often so quick to judge the sins of others and not own up to our own sins?
2. What does Jesus make the accusers realize?
3. What message does Jesus have for the accused?
4. What are the “stones” we often want to throw?
5. What should we give to sinners instead?

RESPONSIVE READING—PSALM 51:1-6

L *Have mercy on me, O God,*
C **according to your steadfast love;**

L *according to your abundant mercy*
C **blot out my transgressions.**

L *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,*
C **and cleanse me from my sin!**

L *For I know my transgressions,*
C **and my sin is ever before me.**

L *Against you, you only, have I sinned*
C **and done what is evil in your sight,**

L *so that you may be justified in your words*
C **and blameless in your judgment.**

L *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,*
C **and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

L *Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,*
C **and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

HYMN

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

Jesus sinners doth receive;
Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander.
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace and life proclaim;
Here their ills have perfect healing
Who with humble hearts believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest is it to know,
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By your blood and bitter passion,
For these words I do believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

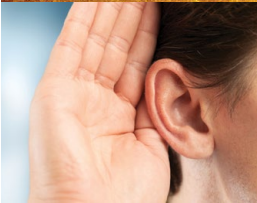
CLOSING PRAYER

We remember this Lent that we do not deserve your forgiveness, so we should never take it for granted. Let us live in constant gratitude for your goodness to us in ridding us of our sins forever. Renew us day after day through your absolution. Let us cultivate a forgiving environment in our homes and have a forgiving approach toward all. Amen.

FOLLOW IN FORGIVENESS

See how often you can forgive others this week.

“Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to [Peter], “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.” Matthew 18:21-22



SAVIOR SERVANT FRIEND

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

This Bible study for Lent explores the biblical background detailing the extraordinary attributes of our Savior, Servant, Friend, Jesus, and marvel at the blessings we receive from his suffering, death and resurrection. Study and discussion questions, prayers and reflections help to develop a closer relationship with Christ. The large-format Leader's Guide includes all answers, helpful notes and session directions.

