

Faithful and Just to Forgive

A Bible Study on Forgiveness

Introduction

Before we can assess the concept that God is “*Faithful* and *Just* to Forgive” we need a solid understanding of what *forgive* means in this context. “What does it mean to say something has been forgiven?”, “What things are we forgiven of?” “Why do these things need to be forgiven?”. Once we understand the what’s and the why’s of forgive; then we can address the how of forgive – that is, **How** God is “*Faithful and Just to Forgive*”. For this reason this Bible study is organized into the following sections:

How Serious Is Sin? (Why Do We Need Forgiveness?)

What Is Forgiveness?

How Are We Forgiven?

What Happens When We Believe We Are Fully Forgiven?

The Bible study is segmented into six lessons. Each lesson is designed to be covered in a 2 hour session. Each lesson will start on a new page so that the instructor can hand out each week’s lesson individually.

Lesson One: How Serious Is Sin?

(Why Do We Need Forgiveness?)

How Serious Is Sin? (Why Do We Need Forgiveness?)

1. Discuss each Bible reference considering the question “How serious is sin?”

a. Sin is rebellion against God

i. **All sin is lawlessness:** 1 John 3:4: *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*

ii. **Sin is evil committed against God:** Psalm 51:4: *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight*

iii. **Jesus gave us the greatest commandment:** Matthew 22:37: *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

iv. **We can conclude: The evil acts committed against God called ‘sin’ break this commandment to love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

b. One ‘little’ sin is as bad as all other sins

i. **Anger is as bad as murder:** Matthew 5:21-22: *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: ²²But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment:*

ii. **Lust is as bad as adultery:** Matthew 5: 27-28: *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: ²⁸But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

iii. **No liar will be allowed into heaven:** Revelation 21:8: *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

v. **One ‘least’ sin is as bad as violating all of God’s commands:** James 2:10: *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

iv. **God’s commanded standard is perfection:** Matthew 5:48: *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

v. **We can conclude: ‘Little’ sins are as bad as all the other sins because they break God’s command to be perfect.**

c. **Every sin deserves eternal punishment**

i. **Failing to help the needy results in everlasting fire:** **Matthew 25:41-45:** *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴²For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: ⁴³I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. ⁴⁴Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? ⁴⁵Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.*

ii. **Everyone who sins is under a curse:** **Galatians 3:10:** *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.*

iii. **Every sin makes a person unfit to come into God’s presence:** **Ephesians 5:5:** *For this ye know, that no whoremonger, **nor unclean person**, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. **Matthew 13:41-42:** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; ⁴²And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

d. **There is no hope of eternal life if you die in you sins. Your eternal fate is sealed!**

i. **There is no expectation after death:** **Proverbs 11:7:** *When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.*

ii. **The Judgment immediately follows death:** **Hebrews 9:27:** *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

iii. **We come into God’s presence IMMEDIATELY after our death.:** **Ecclesiastes 12:7:** *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

iv. **The Day of Atonement sacrifices symbolize that no unclean thing can come into God’s presence.:** **See Leviticus Chapter 16**

v. **We can conclude: If we are still in our sin when we die we will have no hope of living eternally in God’s presence.**

2. **Discuss the seriousness of your own sins.**