



# Forgive Your Enemies

Week of April 9-April 15

*This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.*

## SERIES RECAP

When Jesus came, He initiated a whole new way of living that went against many of the cultural rules that existed in His day. Jesus was the ultimate rule breaker! Jesus showed us how to truly LOVE our neighbors.

## SERMON SUMMARY

The crucifixion—what happens when the worst person meets the best person? In this study, we look at a criminal who finds forgiveness in the most unlikely place.

## MAIN TEXT

Luke 23, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, James 2:10-11, 1 Peter 2:24, John 1:12.

## GETTING STARTED

Have you ever received forgiveness when you didn't expect it? How did you feel about it?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Luke 23:34.
2. What is Jesus asking for in this statement? Who is He asking God to forgive?
3. What kind of criminals hung beside Jesus at the crucifixion?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.
5. According to this passage, who are the law-breakers?
6. Read James 2:10-11.
7. According to this, are you guilty or innocent? What is your penalty?
8. What is your reconciliation to this situation?
9. Read 1 Corinthians 6:11.
10. What does "sanctified" and "justified" mean?
11. Read 1 Peter 2:24.

12. What did one criminal do that the other did not?
13. Why do you think one criminal refused to accept Jesus for who he was? What prevents us from accepting Jesus?
14. Read John 1:12.
15. Because of Jesus, who are you today?
16. Who do you know who needs Jesus?
17. What is God asking you to do?

## NEXT STEPS

The Good News can be condensed into this simple account. Easter is coming—who can you invite to church?

## DISCIPLESHIP STORY THIS WEEK

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Matt 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19

The Crucifixion of Jesus

1. From these accounts, who is present? Who is absent?
2. Jesus asks God to forgive who?
3. Why does one criminal mock while the other rebukes him?
4. Right now, who do you identify with in this story?
5. What did you learn about man in this story?
6. What is God asking you to do?

## DISCIPLESHIP STORY NEXT WEEK

TBD