

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – February 26 – March 3
Doing Life Together – Stump Stories pt 6

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: Colossians 1:13-14

OBSERVATION: Why should we forgive? Why be a doormat? The complaint is that forgiveness is an invention of weakness. Besides, it is unfair. Is it not true that when we ask people to forgive we ask them to suffer twice: the initial hurt, and then again as they wish the one hurting them well at their own expense? However, the whole emphasis of the New Testament is on forgiveness of sins, reconciliation, and holy living manifested and made possible by the love of God through the Cross of Jesus Christ.

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Colossians 2:6-14

OBSERVATION: Richard Hays puts it in *The Moral Vision of the New Testament*, “The church community is God’s eschatological beachhead, the place where the power of God has invaded the world.... The church community is a sneak preview of God’s ultimate redemption of the world.” So Christians forgive, first and foremost, for the sake of Christ.

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Romans 5:8

OBSERVATION: The cross teaches us that reconciliation is the task of the victim. Of course, we are uncomfortable with the ethical implications of the theology of the cross. We who are wronged prefer that the villain make amends. Instead, the model of the cross portrays the injured party taking the initiative to restore the relationship. Wrongful injury becomes an opportunity to display the life-changing grace of God.

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: Matthew 18:23-35

OBSERVATION: When Jesus, in the parable of the unforgiving servant, vows that any one who refuses to forgive a debtor will meet with unspeakable torture, he drives home the point: among other reasons, we should forgive for our sake. Also, forgiving is the only way to be fair to ourselves. For only forgiveness liberates us from a painful past to a brand-new future.

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: Genesis 50:16-17

OBSERVATION: Forgiveness is not easy. I know from first-hand experience that it can be tough and tricky. But we must never lose sight of the gospel, a story that we have more knowledge of than Joseph. The more you reflect on the canceling of your sins, the more readily you’ll be able to forgive others for their sins against you. As C.S. Lewis once said, “To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.”

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 4:32

OBSERVATION: If we hold grudges and refuse to forgive, the pain that others can inflict upon us can remain and fester until it causes deep emotional wounds that won’t heal. This actually hurts us more than the other person, and it can put our spirits and souls in bondage. This isn’t God’s will for us. “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).