



*Father I pray that all of them may be one, Father, just as you
are in me and I am in you.*

October 5–12 . A week of forgiveness, fasting and prayer. Summary notes.

Why Forgiveness?

God was intentional about forgiveness—*before the world was created, Jesus was crucified* (Revelation 13:8). The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16) reminds us that forgiveness restores our relationship with God and with others.

This week, we are intentionally seeking forgiveness with God, our families, and our community.

Daily Focus

Sunday 5th – Monday 6th

You and God

- Find a quiet place.
- Picture yourself clothed in Christ's robe of righteousness (Galatians 3:27).
- Ask: *"Father, is there anything I need to seek Your forgiveness for?"*
- Confess, receive His forgiveness, and thank Him for His mercy (Psalm 103:12).

Tuesday 7th – Wednesday 8th

Marriage & Family

- Ask each other: *"Is there anything I have done or not done over the past year that I need to ask your forgiveness for?"*
- Listen without defending yourself.
- Reflect back what you hear, then ask for forgiveness.
- Pray together, asking God for grace and restoration.

Thursday 9th – Friday 10th

Community & Leadership

- Forgiveness flows outward. Jesus cleanses His people so He can dwell among us (Ephesians 2:22).
- Your pastors and elders ask you: *“Is there anything we have done or not done over the past year that we need to ask forgiveness for?”*
- Thursday 9th, 7–8:30pm at CBTB: Elders available to listen and pray with you.

Sunday 12th

Worship Gathering – Churches of the Bellarine

7pm, CBTB

We will celebrate together after a week of seeking God’s love and forgiveness.

Quick Reminders

- Forgiveness is not about pointing out others’ faults. It’s about *asking* for forgiveness yourself.
- If someone asks you, listen and respond with honesty and grace.
- If emotions are stirred up, take time to pray and seek God’s help. Forgiveness is often a journey.
- Even if someone doesn’t ask, you can still choose to forgive, just as Jesus forgave us.

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

—Ephesians 4:32

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God's Intentional Forgiveness

How intentional do you have to be to forgive? The Bible tells us that *before the world was created, Jesus was crucified*. That's a hard statement to fully comprehend, but it shows us one thing very clearly: God was incredibly intentional about our forgiveness and restoration.

On October 2nd we marked the Day of Atonement—the highest and holiest day in Israel's calendar. It concludes the *Ten Days of Awe*—ten days of repentance between the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement.

In Leviticus 16, Aaron, Yahweh's high priest, was instructed on how to conduct the Day of Atonement. He was to first seek forgiveness from God and for that to flow into his closest relationships, before the nation did the same. God provided this so He could remain in relationship with His people.

Jesus, our great High Priest, atoned for our sin so that we could be forgiven and restored. He calls us to offer that same forgiveness to others. But if we're honest, we often neglect to seek forgiveness, and we become "used to" relationships with God and others being far less than the fullness of love the Father intends.

Through a series of events, the elders and I sense God calling us into a week of intentional forgiveness. We know this may be difficult, but on the other side we believe there will be more love, peace and the power released in us.

What we're doing.

We will be following the pattern God gave Aaron in Leviticus 16: looking back over the last year, examining our relationships, and asking:

"Is there anything I have done or not done over the past year for which I need to ask your forgiveness?"

This may raise questions for you. I've listed some I've anticipated at the end. This isn't a full list, but a starting place. If other questions come up during the week, please reach out to a Life Group leader, elder, pastor, or another mature believer.

Forgiveness is meant to be a deeply communal journey. While it may feel intimidating, doing this together helps us build a culture of love and forgiveness.

You and God. Sunday 5th & Monday 6th – Our Foundation of Forgiveness

When Aaron entered the sanctuary, he had to follow God's instructions carefully. He brought offerings, put on sacred garments, and bathed before entering God's presence.

Paul wrote in **Ephesians 3:12** that we can come boldly and confidently before God because Jesus has atoned for our sin. *To atone* means to make amends by covering, cleansing, and reconciling. That is what Jesus' death has done for us.

Though Jesus' sacrifice paid for our sin once for all time (**1 Peter 3:18**), He and the apostles made it clear—through the Lord's Prayer—that we are to continually seek forgiveness from God and extend it to others.

When Aaron set aside his priestly robes for a simple linen tunic, it was a reminder that before God, he came not as “the high priest” but as a man. Likewise, we come before God simply as His children—clothed in the robe of righteousness that we receive from Jesus (**Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:9–10, 12; Revelation 7:9, 13–14**).

Practical Steps:

- Find a quiet place.
- Picture yourself before your heavenly Father, dressed in a simple white robe—washed clean in Christ.
- Thank Jesus for taking away your sin.
- Ask the Father: *“Is there anything I have done or not done over the past year for which I need to seek Your forgiveness?”*
- Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind any areas,
- Confess your sin and thank God for His forgiveness.
- Repeat the question until nothing else comes to mind.
- Thank God for His mercy, forgiveness, and restoration—that He has removed your sin “as far as the east is from the west” (**Psalms 103:3–13**).
- Ask Him to seal your heart with His forgiveness.

Significant Relationships

Tuesday 7th & Wednesday 8th – Marriage and Family

“Aaron will present his own bull as a sin offering to purify himself and his family, making them right with the Lord.”

– Leviticus 16:11

The power of Jesus’ atoning sacrifice flows into every relationship. Regardless of what has happened in your marriage or family, Jesus longs to bring restoration.

Remember: This is not about pointing out where others need to ask for forgiveness. It is about *you* asking:

“Is there anything I have done or not done over the past year for which I need to ask your forgiveness?”

What to Do as You Seek Forgiveness

Step 1. Seek permission.

Ask if you may ask them the forgiveness question.

Step 2. Give them room.

Ask if they need time to think about it. If they say “yes”, agree on a time to come back. If they say “no” and are happy to share straight away, then ask: *“Is there anything I have done or not done over the past year that I need to ask your forgiveness for?”*

Step 3. Listen.

If they say “yes”, listen carefully. Put yourself in their shoes. Resist the temptation to defend or explain yourself.

Step 4. Reflect.

Ask if you may reflect back what you heard, to ensure you’ve understood correctly.

Step 5. Ask forgiveness.

If they agree you’ve understood them, ask them to forgive you.

Step 6. Pray.

Ask if you can pray together, inviting God to bless you both as you walk in the grace and forgiveness He has given.

What to Do as You Respond to Someone Asking Forgiveness**Step 1. Thank them.**

It’s a big step for someone to do this. Thank them for coming.

Step 2. Check your heart.

If you’re not ready to respond, or emotions are stirred, go back to “You and God.” Take time with Him first.

Remember: holding onto unforgiveness is saying “no” to the Father’s forgiveness for you. Let this be an opportunity to receive God’s grace and freedom.

Step 3. Let them ask.

When you’re ready, let them know you’re open, and allow them to ask the forgiveness question.

Step 4. Answer honestly.

If there is something, share it openly. Then follow the same steps as above under “*What to Do as You Seek Forgiveness.*”

Community and Leadership**Thursday 9th & Friday 10th**

(Here I corrected grammar, typos, and flow in your leadership invitation section. Example:)

“As your pastor, along with the elders, we may have done things—or failed to do things—that have hurt you. Please consider this our question to you:

‘Is there anything I have done or not done over the past year for which I need to ask your forgiveness?’

If so, we would be grateful if you came and shared it with us.”

Closing Gathering**Sunday 12th October – Worship Service for the Churches of the Bellarine, 7pm at CBTB**

We will conclude this week of prayer, fasting, and forgiveness by gathering with the churches of the Bellarine. Imagine what it will be like to worship together after intentionally walking in forgiveness throughout the week!