

Forgiveness

TEXT: Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 6:14,15

KEY VERSE: For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

— Matthew 6:14

RESOURCE MATERIAL: Tract No. 104 — Forgiveness

Forgiveness is a necessary attitude in the Christian life. To receive forgiveness, one must be willing and able to forgive others. Jesus, on Calvary's cross, showed the perfect example of forgiveness. Stephen, while being stoned to death by his persecutors, cried with a loud voice, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge"—certainly an act of forgiveness. See Acts 7:60.

1. Write your own definition of the word *forgive*.

2. What are some similarities/differences in the meanings of the following words?

Repentance

Contrition

Humility

Godly sorrow

How do these words relate to forgiveness?

3. In what way were Joseph and Stephen like Jesus?

4. When you consider the treatment Joseph received at the hands of his brothers, why do you think he helped his family during the famine?

5. Explain how forgiveness relates to the fruit of the Spirit, found in Galatians 5:22,23.

6. Explain why it is important for a Christian to show a forgiving spirit through his actions.

7. What are evidences of true forgiveness? Give examples.

8. If someone asks you to forgive him, is it necessary to be sure he is sincere? Explain your answer.

9. Why is our measure of forgiveness so important?