

## Do We Have to Forgive?

### ***Introduction***

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

Young people, all people need to learn to forgive, for that is what God's great love is all about—God forgives all those who come to Him; He shows mercy to all. Thus, why should we, who are sinners, who are forgiven, not forgive our brothers and sisters? We can be sure that we will have ample opportunity in the daily situations of life to forgive, as Brian, in our story is about to find out.

### ***The Scripture***

Read the Scripture to the group.

*“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.”* —Luke 6:36-37

### ***A Real Life Example***

Read the following or relate it in your own words.

#### Brian's Model Airplane

Brian carefully placed a dot of glue on the last piece of the wing to his model airplane. He slowly placed the piece in just the right spot on the plane. Holding it in place for a few moments to let the glue set, he looked the model over. “There,” he said with satisfaction in his voice, “it is finished. Boy, it has taken me a long time to make this one.” The model airplane had been a gift for his birthday, and he had been patiently working on it for a few months now. “As soon as the glue dries, I can paint it,” he said excitedly. “Hmmm, which color should I paint it?” He rummaged through his paint tubes looking at the different colors. “I think I'll paint it blue.”

“Brian!” He heard his mom calling. “It's time to take Stormy for a walk.”

“Okay, Mom, I'm coming!” Brian checked to make sure that the last piece was held firmly in place, shut the glue container, and carefully pushed the airplane away from the edge of his desk. He grabbed his coat and went to find Stormy's leash. “I finished it Mom! My airplane is ready to paint.”

“That's great, Brian! I can't wait to see it. You'll have to show it to me later.”

“Stormy! Let's go for a walk!” he called to his dog.

Cathy came into the kitchen for a glass of milk. “What was Brian saying, Mom?” she asked, as she pulled a glass from the cupboard.

“He finished his model airplane,” said Mom. “He's pretty excited about it.”

“Oh! That's neat!” said Cathy, as she headed up the stairs to her room. She had some things that she needed to finish up before dinner. As she passed Brian's room, she paused at the doorway. “I wonder what his airplane looks like now? I know he wouldn't mind if I looked at it for a few

minutes. I'll be very careful." She pushed the door open and peeked in the room. Yes, there it was on the desk. She walked over for a closer look. "He sure did a nice job alright. Look at all those little pieces! She tipped the plane up so she could get a better look at the wings. "It sure is nice." Cathy carefully set the plane back on the desk and turned to go back to her room. But as she turned, suddenly her sleeve caught on the propeller and the airplane went flying through the air. She quickly tried to catch it, but she missed and tripped over the stool to land right on top of Brian's plane! "Oh, no!" cried Cathy. "What can I do now?" She carefully picked the plane up. "The whole wing is smashed, and the propeller is bent. What is Brian going to say! And I'm going to have to tell him!"

She stared at the airplane. He had worked so long and hard on it. She knew that he was going to be very upset. Cathy heard Brian running up the stairs. She turned as he entered the room. "I'm so sorry, Brian. I was just taking a look at it and then my sleeve got caught—then I tripped—I didn't mean too!" she cried. "Will you forgive me?"

Brian stared at his airplane in disbelief. All those hours of working on it, gone! He took the airplane from Cathy. "Why did you mess with it? If you would have just left it alone, this wouldn't have happened! Or if you would have just waited for me to show it to you—" Brian ran out of the room, clutching his airplane closely.

Brian returned to his room a few minutes later. His sister was sitting on the floor, crying. "I'm sorry, Cathy. I know that you didn't mean to break my airplane, and I forgive you. I'm sorry I said those things to you, and I asked Jesus to forgive me. Will you forgive me too?" Cathy gave him a big hug, "Of course!" she smiled through her tears. "I'll help you fix your airplane too."

### ***Questions for Discussion***

1. How could Cathy have avoided this situation?
2. What kind of problem did Cathy create for her brother?
3. What would Brian's natural reaction be to this event?
4. If Brian's first reaction included any negative feelings, what should Brian do with these negative feelings?
5. How long should a person be angry?
6. How can Brian show forgiveness to his sister?
7. How can Cathy make amends for what she did?
8. How would you have behaved if you were Brian?
9. How would you have behaved if you were Cathy?
10. Why is it important to be merciful to those who have hurt or angered us?

### ***Conclusion and Resolution***

Read the Scripture again. Read or explain the conclusion in your own words. Ask the group to suggest what specific changes that they can resolve to make in their daily lives that will help them to implement needed changes in this area. Ask them to especially consider things they have learned in the Bible to use as scriptural guideposts to a more competent and productive life.

*Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*” —Luke 6:36-37

Certainly, we all need to learn to forgive. Jesus spoke about it in the Lord’s prayer, in His parables, and even in the Sermon on the Mount. God has forgiven us for all our sins, why should we not forgive others? God is merciful to us, and we are admonished to be merciful to others. And forgiveness should come speedily, not after we pout, not after we throw a tantrum, or say mean words, but it should come as soon after the offense as possible. When we learn to take everything to Jesus as quickly as we can, our forgiveness for others will come quickly too.

### ***Teacher’s Notes***

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