

## I Will Survive – How to Live Through A Bad Day – FORGIVE

**Hebrews 12:2 MSG** Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. **Study how he did it.** Because he never lost sight of where he was headed--that exhilarating finish in and with God-- he could put up with anything along the way: cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God.

**Betrayal. False accusation. Rejection. Abuse. Humiliation.**

**Luke 23:34 (NIV)** "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

### JESUS ON FORGIVENESS – Matthew 18:21-35 (NIV)

- Forgiveness is a predisposition.
- Forgiveness flows from being forgiven.
- Forgiveness is central to our relationship with God.
  - God takes account of all hurt and injustice in our lives. **Psalm 9:7-9**
  - We don't need revenge if we know perfect justice is coming.

### STEP ONE: Forgive

- **Matthew 6:12 (NIV)** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- Forgiveness is a decision, but healing is a process.
- **Forgiveness is not:** Excusing the wrong or denying punishment for the wrong that was done. Requiring an individual to become a doormat or a martyr. Based on fairness or apologies. A feeling. Forgetting. Trust.
- **Forgiveness is:** A choice. An act of faith toward God – it allows for a response to be determined by Him. A dismissal of debt that releases your resentment. Yielding your right to extract punishment for the injustice done. Transferring the penalty and the determination of sentence to God. A doorway to reconciliation.

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- **Helpful Hints...**

- Pray for them – **Matthew 5:43-44**
- Bless them – **Luke 6:27-28**
- Value them – **2 Corinthians 4:17**

### STEP TWO: Reconcile

- **2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (NIV)** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.
- Reconciliation means, to say the same thing.
- 2 requirements for reconciliation: Listening and Patience.

### STEP THREE: Restore

- **Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV)** Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
- Restoration is the decision to re-engage in a trusting relationship.

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