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Berean Bible Church  
January 30, 2022

*Aristarchus, who is in prison with me, sends you his greetings, and so does Mark, Barnabas's cousin. As you were instructed before, make Mark welcome if he comes your way.*

**Colossians 4:10 NLT**

*Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.*

**Colossians 3:13 NLT**

### **Forgiving others affects your relationship with God.**

*If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.*

**Matthew 6:14-15 NLT**

### **Forgiveness frees both you and the offender.**

*"Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies."*

**Nelson Mandela**

### **Bottom Line:**

**Jesus Forgives.  
We should too.**

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps,  
consider using the Think It Over section on the back.

**Think It Over:** This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

**Sermon summary:** Because of Jesus' sacrifice for us, we should as freely forgive as He does.

**Bottom Line:** Jesus forgives; we should too.

**Icebreaker:** What did you do as a child that got you into the most trouble? What was your punishment?

**Discussion:**

- Why was Paul originally upset with John Mark? How did it affect Paul's relationship with Barnabas?
- Share an example of a time when an issue with one person affected your other relationships.
- How do we know that Paul had forgiven John Mark?
- How does forgiving (or not forgiving) affect your personal relationship with God?
- How is forgiving others a freeing experience for ourselves?
- Read Colossians 3:12-13. What is the biblical argument that Paul gives to say that we should forgive others? Find another passage that shares the same idea regarding forgiveness.
- Are there any lingering issues that you need to resolve with someone by forgiving them? What is holding you back from taking the next steps?

**Know:** We can forgive because we have been forgiven.

**Be:** forgiving towards self and others.

**Do:** Forgive freely and quickly, don't leave issues unresolved.