

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.

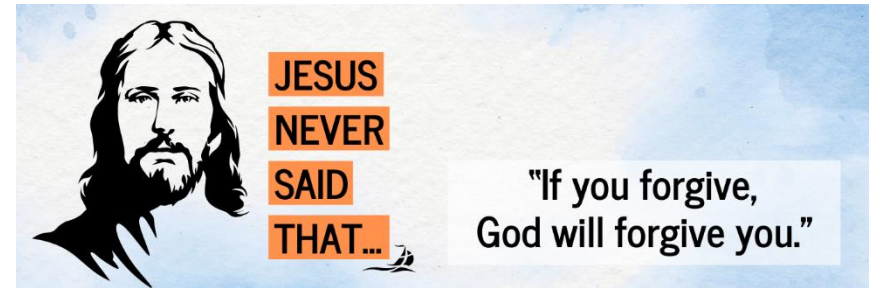
- When was the last time you need saving and you needed it now? Was there a ramp up to the moment you called out "Save me!"? Or did you find yourself immediately in that moment? What rode on the cry for saving? What was the anticipation like? How good was it when salvation was yours? Read Mark 11:1-11. Did the people see how much they need a Hosanna life change? Do we see how much we need a Hosanna life change?
- That change includes the way we receive forgiveness and offer forgiveness. Read Matthew 1:21 and Romans 3:22-26 NLT. How is a Hosanna life change marked by forgiveness, freedom from sin? What makes a person right in God's sight? How does God see you and why?
- Read the C.S. Lewis quote from the Message Guide. Tease out what he is saying. Read Matthew 6:12. How are Jesus' words and Lewis' connected? What are the implications in a Christ follower's life to pray, "God forgive me as I forgive (_____)"? It's like we hold up the way that we forgive to God, we show Him how we have forgiven others, and ask Him to forgive us just like that. How do you feel about that?
- Read Matthew 6:14-15 in both the MSG and NIV. How much forcing does Jesus, your Lord and Savior, need to take to grow your graciousness and forgiveness towards others? Don't rush to the next question, stop and ponder that last one. Again, does the thought "Who?" come to mind? What can't be the two real motivators for dealing with how we forgive?
- Read Ephesians 4:32 MSG. How does this express you? Go back and read through the five "When I forgive" statements. Now how does Ephesians 4:32 describe you?
- Look at the both the Forgiveness sections along with reading the Hebrews 12:14-15 MSG passage. Take the time to digest them. What honestly stands out you personally?

Next Steps: The cry of Hosanna that first Palm Sunday is still our cry today. How will you see that asking God to forgive as you forgive others is a life transformational area, as we continue to need God to save us from ourselves and the way we "forgive"? What is your next step?

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message,
visit www.scc.website
or request a CD at Guest Services.



⁹Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" [grant us salvation now] "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Mark 11:9 NIV

²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus [Joshua], because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21 NIV

²²We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. ²³For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Romans 3:22-26 NLT

Everyone thinks forgiving is a wonderful idea

until they have something to forgive. C. S. Lewis

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

Matthew 6:12 NIV

We are to pray "God, forgive me as I forgive".

Please, God, don't forgive me

like that - Hosanna me!

- When I forgive, but ghosted them, avoiding and giving them the silent treatment.
- When I forgive, but I save what they did to me to use against them at a future time.
- When I forgive, but look forward to them getting theirs.
- When I forgive, but I think through the lens of their sin.
- When I won't forgive them.

¹⁴*In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can't get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others.*
¹⁵*If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God's part.*
 Matthew 6:14–15 MSG

Jesus is forcing the issue that Christ followers must be gracious and forgiving people.

¹⁴*For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*
 Matthew 6:14–15 NIV

Remember Hosanna - we need saving!

- We can't earn God's forgiveness with our forgiveness.
- We don't deserve God's forgiveness if we forgive.

It's a serious error to not be pursuing forgiveness because the forgiven forgive.

³²*Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.*
 Ephesians 4:32 MSG

➤ Forgiveness is not:

- Forgetting
- Regaining automatic trust
- Removal of consequences
- Instant emotional relief
- A leverage of power

¹⁴*Work at getting along with each other and with God. Otherwise you'll never get so much as a glimpse of God. ¹⁵Make sure no one gets left out of God's generosity. Keep a sharp eye out for weeds of bitter discontent. A thistle or two gone to seed can ruin a whole garden in no time.* Hebrews 12:14–15 MSG

➤ Forgiveness is:

- A choice
- Letting go of the "right" to get even
- A step towards healing
- Dropping resentment and grudges
- An opportunity to display grace

Hosanna me (God save me)
 from asking for forgiveness in a way
 that I won't offer it to others.

Bottom Line:

God forgive me as I forgive
 for how I forgive.

Pastor Dave often uses concepts and ideas from a variety of resources when writing a message. If you have any questions regarding these sources, please don't hesitate to contact Dave at daves@senecacommunitychurch.com.

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