

- Preparation
 - Identity
 - Woundedness & Reliance
 - Forgiveness & Reconciliation

New Life Series Outline

- Habits
- Results



What are we talking about today?

What God did for us? **OR**

What we are to do for one another?

Yes and Yes



Definitions.

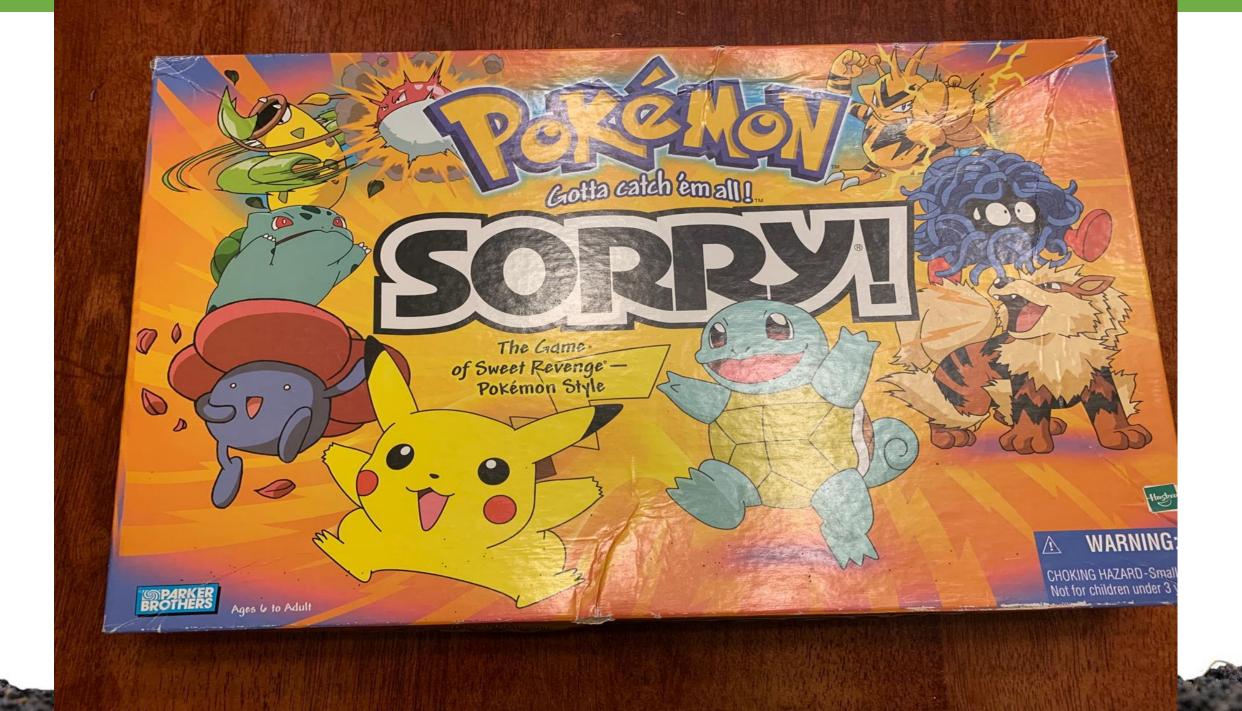
Forgiveness:

Reconciliation:



Forgiveness: Disposition or willingness to pardon, as for a wrong, offense, or sin; cancellation or remission of an obligation, debt, or penalty

Reconciliation: renewal of friendship or relationship after disagreement or enmity.



Forgiveness: One person chooses to say, I am going to let it go. I am going to release you and myself from me having bad feelings towards you over this offense.

Forgiveness doesn't mean there are not consequences for the infraction. We are really just removing ourselves from trying to be the judge for what is right.

Reconciliation: Restoration of a relationship to a harmonious state after a dispute.

Forgiveness only takes one, reconciliation takes two.



What are the key ingredients we need to see both Forgiveness and Reconciliation happen?



What are the key ingredients we need to see both Forgiveness and Reconciliation happen? What do we need to be?

Humble
Attentive to God's voice
Willing to Work (Effort)

Joseph in Egypt: Genesis

39:9 "No one is greater in this house than I am...How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

41:16 "I cannot do it, but God will give pharoah the answer he desires."

41:33 "Find the wisest man, put him in charge..."

Jesus: Matthew 26:53-54

"Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

Us: Philippians 5:2-8:

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-even death on a cross"!."

Us: Isaiah 66:2

"These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word."



2. Listen for and respond to God direction

Jacob moves back home: Genesis 31

31:3 Then the Lord said to Jacob, 'Go back to the land of your fathers and to your relatives, and I will be with you.'

32:6 "We went to your brother Esau and now he is coming to meet you with 400 men.' In great fear and distress Jacob divided the people...Then Jacob prayed, O God, O Lord, you said to me, "Go back to your country and relatives, and I will make you prosper, I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant.....Save me from the hand of my brother..."

2. Listen for and respond to God direction

Jesus: Luke 22:42-44

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Then an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened him. He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood."

2. Listen for and respond to God's direction

Us: Matthew 5:23-24

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

Jacob moves back home: Genesis 32:13-15, 22-23

"...he selected a gift for his brother Esau: 200 female goats, 20 male goats, 200 ewes and 20 rams, 30 female camels and their young, 40 cows and 10 bulls, and 20 female donkeys and 10 male donkeys.....'

"...he took his 2 wives, 2 female servants, 11 sons and crossed the ford of Jabbok, then he sent over all his possessions...:

Benefit of Obedience– Jacob is reconciled with Esau: Genesis 33

"...Jacob bowed down to the ground seven times as he approached his brother...But Esau ran to meet Jacob and embraced him; he threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. And they wept..."

Joseph: Gen 39:3-5, 22-23

"...Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph and that the Lord gave Joseph success in everything he did...Potiphar put him in charge of his household and entrusted to his care everything he owned."

"The warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care..."

Joseph: Gen 45:8

"...God made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt..."



Joseph: Gen 45:4-5

"...I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."

3. Be willing to Work, put forth Effort What about us??



Ephesians 4:1-2

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. <u>Be patient</u> with each other, <u>making allowance</u> for each other's faults because of your love.

Ephesians 4:1-3

"...don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil. <u>Make every effort</u> to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace."

Ephesians 4:31-32

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, <u>forgiving one another</u>, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

If you want to be a part of seeing Forgiveness and Reconciliation, ask God to help you be:

Humble
Attentive to God's voice
Willing to Work (Effort)

Ask other Christians to help you too!

God doesn't want Reconciliation with Him to end with you!

2 Corinthians 5:18-20:

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 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 people'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. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:12-21