# Forgiveness Series

In the month of April, we will see what the scriptures have to say about forgiveness. We will ask God to help us stop the cycle of hurt, hate, and vengeance.

## April 21, 2021 – The Enemy’s Side of the story

Part of forgiveness is understanding our enemy’s or person who hurt us, side of the story. While their past, does not excuse their current behaviors, we can still emphasize with where they are. Much of what people do are in correlation with what they’ve experienced, saw, or been trained to understand. As the saying goes…Hurt People, Hurt People.

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” (Matthew 5:44)

* We are called to love our enemies, otherwise we are no different than the world.
* The true test of a believer is in how one treats those who they are naturally inclined to hate or mistreat.
* Many persons are in need of forgiveness because…
	+ They’ve been hurt
	+ They’ve never experienced Christ Love
	+ They have had a rough season, and taking it out on others
	+ They’ve been trained or fashioned to express themselves through hurt
	+ They enjoy the pain inflicted or rather they try to “get a rise” out of people
	+ They made an innocent mistake that had grave consequences

**Behavioral Implications**: We forgive not just because Christ calls us to, but we forgive because Christ loves them too. We must try our best to understand each other’s stories, and love from there.