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<p>Theme: Giving thanks</p>	<p>Date: 24 May 2013</p>
<p>Scripture: Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends. (Proverbs 17:9 NLT)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Forgiveness The Key to Freedom</p>	<p>Comment: There's a problem in a team a friend works in. He's upset a colleague and the relationship has broken down. It's affecting the whole team. Another person has been brought in to help reconcile but it's not working because one won't forgive the other because one doesn't feel the other is genuinely sorry. I find it a lot easier to forgive my partner when she makes it easy for me, with genuine apologies or displays of regret. But forgiveness is not conditional. It's a journey starting with a choice and ending with feelings. It's a fundamental pre-requisite to building trust and it's unilateral, and it's usually hard and it's one of the ways we grow and God will help us do it if we ask him. And if we don't do it we grow apart. How might your relationship and family benefit if you were able to be more forgiving? Who do you need to forgive?</p>
<p>Prayer (as a couple): Dear Father, help me to learn from you and be more forgiving, regardless of whether forgiveness is 'deserved' or not. Help me to remember that I benefit when I forgive. Help me to model forgiveness better and nudge me now I pray if there is anything that I need to forgive. For I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.</p>	<p>Prayer (for others): Dear Father we pray for and and for other couples in our community. May you give them a new spirit of forgiveness for one another. May they choose to forgive unconditionally. Like you do. For we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.</p>
<p>Final quote: "To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you" C.S. Lewis.</p>	

Remember others will also be praying in this way this week. Together and with God we can make a difference.

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