

# MESSAGE NOTES

"I Declare" series

"I will Forgive Freely"

Matthew 18

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Crossroads Christian Church

January 19, 2025

This year, with God's help and the power of the Holy Spirit, I declare:

I will greet each day with a \_\_\_\_\_.

Recognizing the poison caused by \_\_\_\_\_, I will choose to move toward \_\_\_\_\_ others the way Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ me.

Reasons we don't forgive:

1. We don't \_\_\_\_\_ what forgiveness really is.
2. We don't \_\_\_\_\_ the hurt.
3. We don't \_\_\_\_\_ to be the judge.
4. We know it will take away our \_\_\_\_\_ for our bad behavior.
5. We've \_\_\_\_\_ forgiveness with reconciliation.

Matthew 18:15-18, 23-25, 35

\_\_\_\_\_ people forgive \_\_\_\_\_.

Three steps:

First: Who \_\_\_\_\_ you?

Second: What do they \_\_\_\_\_ you?

Third: Cancel the \_\_\_\_\_.

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# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*For the week of January 19, 2025*

1. At the start of a new year, many of us make declarations and resolutions, but it's common to struggle with following through. What makes it so challenging to stick to our commitments?
2. Pastor Rusty shared this past weekend that we can no longer put blame on anyone but ourselves. What does the Bible teach us about personal responsibility? (Read **Galatians 6:4-5**.) How can we balance bearing our own load while helping others?
3. In **Genesis 3:12-13**, Adam and Eve shifted blame. Why is it so easy to blame others, and how can we overcome this tendency in our daily lives?
4. Think of a time when you avoided responsibility. What were the consequences, and how could taking responsibility have changed the outcome?
5. What declaration of responsibility can you make this week for your personal growth, family, or workplace? (Example: "I will take responsibility for how I respond to challenges.")
6. Why do you think God calls us to consistency in our faith and actions? (Read **1 Corinthians 15:58**.) How does steadfastness impact our witness to others?
7. Where in your life do you struggle with consistency (e.g., prayer, relationships, work), and what steps can you take to improve?

If you could make one declaration about being more consistent in this area, what would it be, and how can the group support you?

8. Jesus was consistent in His mission and ministry (**Hebrews 13:8**). How can we follow His example in remaining faithful despite challenges?
  
9. What does forgiving freely mean to you, and why is it important to our faith? (Read **Matthew 6:14-15**.) How does withholding forgiveness affect our relationship with God and others?

Is there someone you need to begin to practice forgiveness with? If so, who is it? (Write down their name and begin praying about how God will help you forgive them no matter what they might have done.)

NOTES \_\_\_\_\_

PRAYER REQUESTS \_\_\_\_\_