

September 27, 2026

King Jesus Gives You Authority

from our series, *How God Wants You To Live (it's not what you think)*
(John 20:19-23)

Warmup: Since we're talking about forgiveness of sins, let's play a game that involves sin... Play "two truths and a lie." Each person shares two things that are true about them and one thing that isn't true, but say all three as if they are true. Everyone else tries to guess which one is a lie.

READ John 20:19-23 once again! This week we're focusing on King Jesus giving us the authority to forgive sins.

REFLECT Have someone draw the triangle with KING, AUTHORITY, and POWER at the corners.

- What do you think about Neil's view: Jesus loves to invite people to join His mission and so He sends us with His authority as His partner to forgive and not forgive? Yes, this is somewhat mysterious! As Bible student Dale Bruner says, "Disciples do not *make* this gift [of forgiveness] for others; they simply *share* it with believers."
 - Does this fully explain John 20:23, or do you have other questions or ideas about it?
- As part of your conversation, read Romans 6:23, Ephesians 1:7, John 1:29, Matthew 6:9-13, and Matthew 16:16-19. Discuss insights from these passages.
- Next read John 8:1-11, especially verses 10-11. How does Jesus' interaction with the woman caught in adultery speak to this mysterious reality?
- Now for the painful part: is the Holy Spirit bringing to mind anyone that He would like you to forgive? You can keep the person anonymous, and you certainly don't want to gossip, but if it would help you take the next step to forgive them, talk with your group about what to do.
- And another painful question: is the Holy Spirit showing you that you need to ask for forgiveness from someone you've hurt? Asking for forgiveness is part of partnering with Jesus' mission of forgiveness!

RESPOND

- On the next page is the prayer that Neil's friend, LoriAnn, gives to people in her healing ministry. Spend some time talking with your group about whether you could pray this about a person you need to forgive. Note that this is a prayer to God, not a script to say to another person (although who knows, perhaps God will ask you to do that one day).

"To transform religious and irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Christ."

By the power of Jesus, and because of what Jesus did for me, I forgive [person's name], for [what they did].

[Name], I forgive you for the lies that have come to me because of your actions and words:

(State the specific lies. Examples:

Lies about my identity

Lies about my value

Lies about my relationships

Lies about who God is

Other lies)

[Name], I forgive you for the fear that has entered into my life.

(list the specific fears)

[Name], I forgive you for the ways your actions and words have opened me up to...

(Example: anger, bitterness, hatred, addiction, self-harm, debt, bondage, depression...)

[Name], I forgive you for your failure to (or lack of...)

(state their specific failures)

Now pray a prayer of blessing over the person.

- Take some time to quietly sit with this prayer. No one is forced to pray it now. But at least ask the Spirit to speak to you about the idea of praying this for the person who has hurt you.
- Besides anyone who God is asking you to forgive, is there anyone you know who needs the forgiveness that King Jesus offers? Pray for them and pray that you get an opportunity to tell them this week about Jesus' forgiveness!