**Insert #1** – **The Forgiveness Packet** – PRISM Topic Forgive

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| **Forgive**  To grant pardon or remission of an offense.  **To willingly give up your right to hold something against someone.**  **To cease to feel resentment against, on account of a wrong committed.**  To pardon, to **absolve**, to **overlook** an offense.  **To give up any claim or right to retribution.**  **To cancel any indebtedness or liability.**  **To treat the offender as not guilty.**   **I John 1:9** - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and **will forgive us** our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **Matthew 6:12** - And forgive **us** our debts **as we** forgive our debtors.  **Matthew 6:14,15 -** If you **forgive others** when they sin against you, your heavenly Father **will also** forgive you.  But **if you do not** forgive others their offenses, **neither will** your Father forgive yours.  **Luke 23:34** - Then said Jesus, “**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do**.”  And they cast lots to  divide his garments.  **Ephesians 4:32** - And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ’s sake  has forgiven you.  **Colossians 3:13** - Bear with each other and **forgive whatever grievances** you may have against one another.  Forgive as the Lord forgave you.  **Psalms 130:3,4 -** If you O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  But **with you there is forgiveness**  therefore you are feared.  **Psalms 32:1** - Blessed is the one whose transgressions **are forgiven**, whose sins are covered.  Blessed is the one  whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.  **Matthew 18:21-22** - Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, **how many times** shall I forgive my brother or  sister when he sins against me?  Up to seven times?  Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but **seventy**  **times seven**.  **Luke 17:3-4** - …If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them.  Even if  they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ **you must forgive**  them.  **Mark 11:25** - And when you stand praying, **if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him**, so that your Father  in heaven **may forgive you** your sins. |

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**PRISM Topic** – Forgive (2) www.hearwelldone.org

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| **Forgive:** To grant pardon or remission of an offense. **To willingly give up your right to hold something against someone. To cease to feel resentment against, on account of a wrong committed.**To pardon, to **absolve**, to **overlook** an offense. **To give up any claim or right to retribution.** **To cancel any indebtedness or liability.**  **To treat the offender as not guilty.**   **Matthew 18:32-35** - Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt  of yours because you begged me to.  Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?  In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you **unless you forgive** your brother or sister from you’re your heart.”  **Psalms 25:11,14** - For the sake of your Name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity though it is great.  Look upon my  affliction and my distress and **forgive all** my sins.  **Exodus 34:6,7** - And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and  gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, **and forgiving**  **wickedness, rebellion and sin**.  Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their  children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.  **Exodus 20:6** - but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands**.**  **Psalms 86:2,5** - You **have forgiven** the iniquity of your people, you have covered all their sin.  You are forgiving  and good O LORD, abounding in love to all who call to you. Hear my prayer O LORD; listen to my cry for mercy.  In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me.  **Luke 7:47** - Therefore, I tell you, her many sins **have been forgiven** – for she loved much.  But he who is forgiven  little, loves little.  **Jeremiah 31:34** - No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because  they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.” Declares the LORD.  For **I will forgive** their  wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”  **Jeremiah 36:3** - Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, each of  them **will turn** **from** his wicked way; **then I will forgive** their wickedness and their sin.”  **Isaiah 55:7 -** Let the wicked **forsake his way**, and the evil man his thoughts.  **Let him turn** to the LORD and he will  have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  **James 5:15,16** - And **the prayer offered in faith** will make the sick person well; the LORD will raise him up.  If he  has sinned, **he will be forgiven**.  Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you  may be healed.  The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. |

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**Relationship Topic:** Forgiveness and Restoration hearwelldone.org

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| In relationships there can be no true restoration without forgiveness, there can be no forgiveness without confession, and there can be no confession without repentance.**We should forgive those who wrong us, so a root of bitterness doesn’t grow up, but that won’t restore a relationship. Restoration is a two-way street.**  **Repent** To feel **pain**, **sorrow**, or **regret** for what one has done or neglected to do; but also - **a turning, and a turning from**  To **change your course** of conduct **on account of your regret**.  To be sorry for a sin, to seek forgiveness, and then cease to practice it.   **Confess** To **verbally acknowledge** a fault, crime, or misdeed (to someone) **To own or admit as true**, to assent to; to acknowledge, as after a previous doubt, denial, or concealment.     Assent:  to admit a thing as true.     **Seeking Forgiveness** Seeking Forgiveness, **fully confesses and admits** your guilt, and **asks** the offended **to not hold your sin against you** - so that your relationship can be restored.  **Rather than a defense of one’s actions, seeking forgiveness...** **1 Confesses** and admits both the **offense committed**, **and** the **wicked motive** of the heart that produced it.  2 **Communicates** the **repentance** of your heart, **and** the **commitment to change** the course of conduct which resulted in the offense.  3 Humbly **Requests** that the offended not hold the offense against you.   **Forgive** To willingly **give up your right** to hold something against someone. To **cease to feel** **resentment** against, on account of a wrong committed. To **pardon**, to **overlook** an offense, to **treat the offender as not guilty**.  **Restoration** Restore:  To bring back to its former state.  To bring back from a state of ruin, to give back, make return or restitution of anything taken away or lost.  Restoration: The act of restoring or bringing back to a former place, station, or condition; the fact of being restored; renewal; re-establishment; as the restoration of friendship between enemies, the restoration of peace after war.   **An Apology** **A) Something** **said or written in defense** or **justification** of what appears to others to be wrong, or B) an **acknowledgement intended as atonement** for some improper act.  **Apologize:** (make an apology) – A) to **make a defense** or excuse. (from which we get the word “Apologetics”)  **or** B) to **make acknowledgement** of some fault or offense, **with expression of regret** for it by way of amends. |

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| **A Mere Apology versus Seeking Forgiveness and Restoration** Wording is important!  **Not** **“I’m sorry”** - you might be sorry you got caught, you might be sorry they got offended, but not sorry for the sin you committed.  You might be sorry they feel differently than you regarding this issue… **Not “I apologize” -** you could just be making defense of your action, or just seeking absolution. An apology may be accepted or it may not be. An accepted apology is an acknowledgment of the statement of the offender.  **A mere apology without seeking forgiveness; is an unresolved conflict**.  The momentary tension may pass, but the unresolved feelings or issues will continue bubbling beneath the surface to re-surface at a later date.   A mere apology is postponed or delayed resolution (a squandered opportunity to make things right between you and another person). A mere apology undermines and prevents complete restoration. **“No problem” is not the same as “I Forgive You.”**  **Seeking Forgiveness** Wording is important. **“Will You Please Forgive Me FOR**:"   1) **State** the offense specifically 2) **Admit** the wicked motive that produced the offense 3) **Regret - Express** **the regret** that repentance requires 4) **Commit - Express the commitment to change**: your sinful motive, **and** the course of conduct that resulted in the offense (producing the fruit of repentance). Example:  **Will you please forgive me for** taking your sandwich from the refrigerator? I saw your name on it – but I was hungry and took it anyway.  I guess that makes it stealing.  Will you please forgive me for stealing from you?   Notice this fully admits not just the wrong action, but the true sin the offense represents. Sincerely seeking forgiveness means you don’t defend your actions, but instead, you fully admit and take ownership of them.  Hunger is irrelevant.  Being hungry doesn’t give you the right to steal their sandwich.   Then **restitution** may be in order.  “I will buy you a new sandwich for tomorrow, I want to make this right.”   **Forgiveness Granted** Wording is important. **“I forgive you.”** **Forgiveness granted** is the **complete closure** of the apology – **the remaining half** of the equation.  It means the offended relinquishes their right to continue to hold the offense against the offender.   And restoration of the relationship can now begin.  **What Does God Do?**  **I John 1:9** - If we confess our sins, he is **faithful** and just to **forgive us** our sins and **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness. **Psalms 103:12** - As far as the east is from the west, so far has he **removed our transgressions** from us. **Isaiah 43:25** - I, even I, am He who **blots out your transgressions**, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. I, yes I alone, will blot out your sins **for my own sake** and will never think of them again (NLT) **Micah 7:19-20** - Who is a God like you, who **pardons our sin** and **forgives the transgression** of the remnant of his inheritance?  You do not stay angry forever but **delight to show mercy**.  You will **again have compassion** on us; and will **tread our sins underfoot** and **cast all** our iniquities into the depths of the sea.  **Hebrews 8:12** - For I will forgive their wickedness and will **remember their sins no more**. |

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