

FORGIVE THOSE WHO HURT YOU

«Not seven times, but seventy-seven times»
(Mt 18:22).

1

Peter asked Jesus: *“Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”* Jesus answered: Jesus answered: *“Not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”* Peter probably thought he was suggesting something exceptional: to forgive up to *seven* times. In fact, for the Jewish people at that time one might forgive two or three times, or four at the most. Instead, Jesus answered: *‘... seventy times seven.’* This tells us that for him forgiveness is unlimited **We have to forgive all the time.**



70x7=



2

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FORGIVE OTHERS?

X FORGIVING DOES NOT MEAN:

- > **JUST FORGETTING ABOUT IT** –this often means we don't want to face the issue.
- > **BEING WEAK** –ignoring the injustice out of fear of the stronger person who hurt us.
- > **SAYING IT'S NOT IMPORTANT** and instead it is a serious offense.
- > **BEING INDIFFERENT.**

V FORGIVENESS IS:

- > A conscious **ACT OF THE WILL** and therefore, a free act.
- > **ACCEPT** the other person as they are, no matter what they did to us.
- > **NOT RESPONDING** to an offense with another offense.
- > **OFFERING** the person who offended you the opportunity to start over again and have a new relationship between you both.



3

How can we live this Word of Life?

Let's start first of all in our family, at school or in our community...

Let's react to an offense by doing something positive or saying something good about the other person.

People often hurt one another because of differences in personality, nervous tension, or other causes. Let's remember that only by constantly being ready to forgive will there be peace and unity among everyone.

We have to develop the habit of seeing our family members, our friends, our teachers, our neighbors with new eyes, as new people, accepting them as they are, right to the end.

4

You might say:
“But that's so hard!”

And you're right, it won't always be easy. **But that's what's so beautiful about loving Jesus.** He himself asked **his Father** to forgive those who had crucified him. **But then, as we know, he rose from the dead!**

Take heart!

Start living like this. I assure you that you will experience peace as never before, and a joy previously unknown.

