

# Forgiveness in Evangelism and Discipleship

*Luke 23:34*

**Main idea:** To emphasize the importance of forgiveness in evangelism and discipleship, and provide practical steps for cultivating a forgiving heart.

**Topic:** Evangelism/Discipleship

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Scripture passages that support the topic of forgiveness and evangelism/discipleship:

1. Matthew 6:14-15 - "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."
2. Colossians 3:13 - "Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."
3. Ephesians 4:32 - "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

Language suggestions from the original languages:

1. In Luke 23:34, when Jesus says, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," the Greek word for "forgive" is "aphiēmi," which means to send away, release, or pardon. Emphasize the act of releasing and pardoning others in your sermon.
2. In Matthew 6:14-15, the Greek word for "forgive" is "aphiēmi" as well. Highlight the connection between our forgiveness of others and God's forgiveness of us.

Other relevant passages:

1. Matthew 18:21-22 - The parable of the unforgiving servant emphasizes the importance of forgiving others as we have been forgiven.
2. Romans 12:17-21 - Encourages believers to not seek revenge but to overcome evil with good.

To reinforce your current ideas without personal examples:

1. Share real-life stories or examples of forgiveness from other people's experiences.
2. Use illustrations or parables that demonstrate the power and impact of forgiveness.
3. Provide practical steps or strategies for cultivating a forgiving heart and extending forgiveness to others.
4. Offer insights from historical figures or theologians who have written about forgiveness and its role in evangelism and discipleship.

Remember to weave these additional ideas and passages seamlessly into your sermon, ensuring they support and reinforce your main point on forgiveness in evangelism and discipleship.