

Stephen, Dawn & Jameson Clancy  
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Stephen:

In today's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus how often we should forgive. Jesus tells the parable of the King who forgave the debt of a servant - a debt the servant would be incapable of paying. After being forgiven of his debt, the servant would not forgive a much smaller debt of a fellow servant. Upon hearing of this, their master becomes angry and punishes the unforgiving servant saying, "you must forgive your brother from your heart!"

Jameson:

Forgiveness is often difficult to give to another person because it is often associated with pain - whether intentional or accidental. So, there may not always be an apology. Forgiveness is also difficult to ask for because we are admitting that we have hurt someone physically, emotionally or financially. What we've learned through the gospel today is that when we seek forgiveness freely and openly from others but do not give the same in return, we are not living as Jesus taught. He said, "forgive from your heart." While it may not be easy to offer forgiveness and it may take some time to recover from the pain or sorrow, inevitably we must grant forgiveness, not just for ourselves, but for the other person's healing as well.

Dawn:

As a family we sometimes say or do things that upset or hurt one another. This could include not doing your chores or missing an important date —all the way to making a financial decision without discussing it as a family first. After all none of us is perfect. The most important rule in our home is to not go to bed angry. Apologize, seek forgiveness and give forgiveness in return.