

**FAMILY LIFE CHURCH OF THE VALLEY
LIFE GROUP - RIVERSIDE COUNTY**

TITLE: THE SEVEN GREATEST WORDS OF LOVE

SESSION ONE: THE WORD OF FORGIVENESS

**KEY VERSE: Jesus said, ‘Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’
Luke 23:34a (NIV)**

Great crowds trailed along behind, and many grief-stricken women. But Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem don’t weep for me, but for yourselves”... Two others criminals, were led out to be executed with him at a place called “The Skull.” There all three were crucified – Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side.

Luke 23:27-28, 32-33 (TLB)

Jesus said, “ Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. “ He saved others,” they said , “ Let him save himself if he is really God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. They called out to him, “ If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself.”

Luke 23:34-37 (NLT)

WHAT WE USUALLY DO WITH OUR GUILT

1.) We _____ it.

When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long ... My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.” And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Psalm 32:3-5 (NLT)

HOW WE BURY THE PAST

- _____
- _____
- _____

You will never succeed in life if you try to hide your sins.

Proverbs 28:13a (GNT)

THE SEVEN GREATEST WORDS OF LOVE SESSION ONE (cont.)

2.) We _____ others.

“Yes,” Adam admitted, “ but it was the woman you gave me who brought me some, and I ate it.”

Genesis 3:12 (TLB)

People’s own foolishness ruins their lives, but in their minds they blame the Lord.

Proverbs 19:3 (NCV)

3.) We _____ ourselves up.

My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear ... I am bowed down and brought Low; all day long I go about mourning.

Psalms 38:4, 6 (NIV)

WHAT JESUS WANTS US TO DO WITH OUR GUILT

1.) _____ it.

The Lord gave us mind and conscience; we cannot hide from ourselves.

Proverbs 20:27 (GNT)

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8 (NIV)

TO STOP _____ MYSELF, I MUST

STOP _____ MYSELF.

2.) _____ responsibility.

I recognize my faults; I am always conscious of my sins.

Psalms 51:3 (GNT)

Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

James 5:16

=====
I’M ONLY AS SICK AS MY SECRETS
=====

THE SEVEN GREATEST WORDS OF LOVE SESSION ONE (cont.)

3.) _____ for forgiveness.

If we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable ... he forgives our sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil.

1 John 1:9 (Phillips)

=====
**GOD IS MORE WILLING TO FORGIVE YOU THAN
YOU ARE WILLING TO ADMIT YOUR SIN.**
=====

All of us have sinned ... yet now God declares us “not guilty” if we trust in Jesus Christ, who in his kindness freely takes away our sins.

Romans 3:23-24 (TLB)

WHAT GOD DOES WITH MY GUILT

1.) God forgives _____.

2.) God forgives _____.

He has forgiven all your sins: Christ has utterly wiped out the damning evidence of broken laws and commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it over his own head to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14 (Phillips)

3.) God forgives _____.

... for the [Christ] is always living to intercede on their behalf.

Hebrews 7:25 (Phillips)

4.) God forgives _____.

=====
**GOD WANTS YOU TO NEVER FORGET
WHAT IT COST JESUS TO PAY FOR YOUR SINS**
=====

What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! ... What relief for those who ... God has cleared their record.

Psalms 32:1-2 (TLB)

THE SEVEN GREATEST WORDS OF LOVE SESSION ONE (cont.)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1.) The three most common ways we deal with guilt are to bury it, to blame others, or to beat ourselves up. How do you typically deal with guilt, and how has it affected your relationships? You don't have to answer this publicly, but are you holding on to any guilt? What does this lesson say you should do?

2.) Pastor Rick teaches that Jesus wants us to admit our guilt, accept responsibility for our actions, and ask for forgiveness. Why is it important to admit our guilt rather than just assume everything is okay with God? Why is it important to take responsibility for our actions? What does "taking responsibility" look like?

3.) God forgives us freely, but if we want to be set free from our guilt we have to confess our faults to each other. Why do you think it is important to confess your sins to one other person? Do you know someone you trust enough to confess your sins to? If not, what's keeping you from having a relationship like that? Are you the kind of person that someone can trust if they confess their sins to you?
