

Priceless! You are Forgiven!

An Elephant Never Forgets

The saying “an elephant never forgets” highlights that elephants have impressive memories. They remember locations, social relationships and experiences. Some people have memories like an elephant—they don’t forget anything. Somethings I can remember. I still remember the outfit I wore on my first date with the man who is now my husband. I remember vividly the days each of my 3 children were born. However, ask me what I had for lunch yesterday—and I probably won’t remember.

Then there are things that I remember that I wish I could forget: hurtful words I shouldn’t have said, bad attitudes, not responding graciously at times... You know, those less than stellar moments in my life. Even after I have asked God for forgiveness, I still recall some of my past mistakes (over and over).

Hallelujah, when it comes to our sins, God is not like an elephant. 1 John 1:9, one of the verses I memorized as a child, proclaims: ***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*** When I confess my sin to the Lord, He washes me clean. He makes it as if that sin never existed. No lingering evidence is found.

Micah 7:18-19 says, ***Who is God like you, who pardons 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; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.*** It is as if God throws our sins to the bottom of the ocean—never to be seen again. Corrie ten Boom, concentration camp survivor and evangelist wrote:

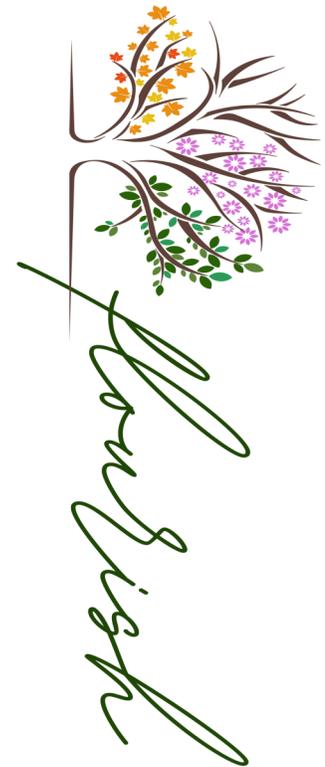
*“God buries our sins in the depths of the sea and then puts up sign that reads,
‘No fishing.’”*

There is a chorus of a song that says:

*No more! No more! He remembers sins no more,
They are pardoned for ever, and He will never
Bring them up against me any more.
I’ll hear no more of the evil days of yore;
I’m a pardoned offender, and God will remember them no more.
(The Salvation Army Songbook #460)*

God promises in Isaiah 43:25, ***“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”***

So don’t be like an elephant who never forgets, rather hold your head up high, God is the forgiver of sins, and you, as a His Daughter, are forgiven!



Inside this issue

Conversation Starters.....	2
Additional Resources.....	2
Forgiveness Prayers.....	2
Monthly Bible Reading	3
Ideas from the Territory.....	3
Forgiven Quotes	4
Identity Statements.....	4

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Conversation Starters

Gather with some friends and spend some time going deep with conversation around the fact that you have been forgiven by God.

- When have you received forgiveness? What happened? How did it feel to be forgiven?
- When have you offered forgiveness to another person? How did it feel to offer forgiveness?
- Is forgiveness an easy thing for you to do? Is it easier for you to ask for forgiveness or to forgive someone else?
- When you think about all that you have done, and that God forgives you, how does that make you feel?
- Have you ever felt like you have done something so bad that God couldn't possibly ever forgive you for it?
- Do your previous confessed sins still haunt you? How do you handle it? Do you allow the enemy to win in your life by reminding you of the shame?
- What is your favorite verse about God's forgiveness?

“To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable, because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” C.S. Lewis

Additional Resources

Check out our website for more resources to help you focus on your identity - You are forgiven: <https://usw-womensministries.org/>

This month our Bible Study, Devotional and Craft idea focus the fact that we are forgiven by God, written by Major Tammy Ray, Sara Ray & Carol World

Blog: *You Are Forgiven* by Commissioner Colleen Riley

Check out our Playlist of songs that speak of our identity in Christ: WM 2024-2025

Priceless: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/7xLxDn8lLdAq4je3D5L4YK?si=547054ac7309495c>

Forgiveness Prayers

For this prayer time, you will need a clear jar or vase, soluble vitamin C tablets, or Alka-Seltzer tablets, and water. Fill your jar with water. Hold the tablet in your hand, and think of things that you have done that you need to ask the Lord for forgiveness. Place the tablet in the clear jar. As the tablet is dissolving let it remind you that God completely removes sins from our lives, to never be remembered again:

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.

Hebrews 8:12

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Do this activity a second time and think of those who you need to forgive, people who have hurt you in some way. As the tablet dissolves, pray and ask the Lord to help you forgive them. Visualize that as the tablet dissolves, you are letting go of the grudge you have been holding.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:12, 14-15



God is a God who forgives!

Flourishing in the Word

God is a forgiving God, and this month we will read passages in Scripture that reminds us of the forgiveness of sins God offers.

June 1	Numbers 14:1-25	June 16	Matthew 18:21-35
June 2	Psalms 32:1-11	June 17	Matthew 26:26-30
June 3	Psalms 51:1-19	June 18	Luke 23:32-43
June 4	Psalms 103:1-12	June 19	John 1:29-42
June 5	Psalms 130:1-8	June 20	Acts 3:11-26
June 6	Isaiah 1:1-20	June 21	Acts 10:23-48
June 7	Isaiah 38:1-22	June 22	Ephesians 1:3-10
June 8	Isaiah 43:14-28	June 23	Ephesians 4:29-5:2
June 9	Isaiah 44:6-23	June 24	Colossians 1:9-14
June 10	Isaiah 55:1-13	June 25	Colossians 2:6-15
June 11	Jeremiah 31:27-34	June 26	Colossians 3:12-17
June 12	Ezekiel 18:1-32	June 27	Hebrews 8:1-13
June 13	Daniel 9:1-19	June 28	Hebrews 9:11-28
June 14	Micah 7:14-20	June 29	Hebrews 10:1-18
June 15	Matthew 6:9-15	June 30	1 John 1:5-2:2

Flourishing Ideas from the Territory

Anacortes, WA & Seattle White Center, WA are doing intentional discipleship studies with the women.

Gateway, AK did a Bible study through the book of Daniel.

Homer, AK did the study, *Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted*, by Priscilla Shirer.

Long Beach Red Shield, CA Spanish WM had an outdoor worship program, with music, testimonies and food.

Orange County, CA Korean Corps held a virtual nightly prayer meeting for 10 days. **Salinas, CA** held a united Luncheon and Hispanic women from Salinas, Watsonville and Gilroy gathered together for a fun day filled with praise and worship, a devotional, great food, games and an easy craft.

Suisun Kroc, CA held a potluck party to celebrate one of the women getting a new home. They surprised her with thoughtful gifts to help her get settled in.

Tempe, AZ has begun to use the Women's *Embrace* material from the Central Territory. Interested? For more information, check out their website: <https://uscwomensministries.com/embrace/>

Forgiven Quotes

We tend to drag up our old sins, that we tend to live under a vague sense of guilt... we are not nearly as vigorous in appropriating God's forgiveness as He is in extending it. Consequently, instead of living in the sunshine of God's forgiveness through Christ, we tend to live under an overcast sky of guilt most of the time. Jerry Bridges

No child of God sins to the degree as to make himself incapable of forgiveness. John Bunyan

Forgiveness is the divine miracle of grace; it cost God the cross of Jesus Christ before He could forgive sin and remain a holy God... When once you realized all that it cost to forgive you, you will be held as in a vice, constrained by the love of God. Oswald Chambers

I believe that as often as I transgress, God is more ready to forgive me that I am ready to offend. C.H. Spurgeon



“He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:10-12

Identity Statements

You are God's child and He has forgiven you! Here are some identity statements for you to claim, memorize and meditate on.

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. Psalm 32:1-2

If you Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you. Psalm 130:3-4

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8-9

