

# Forgiving Those Who Have Sinned

NEW TESTAMENT SEMINARY MANUAL

Imagine that, like the Corinthians, people in your ward need to increase their love and forgiveness toward those who have sinned. Because of this, your bishop invites you to share a short thought on forgiveness at the beginning of your class or quorum meeting. Take a few minutes and create an outline of what you could say. Include the following:

1. At least one verse or phrase from 2 Corinthians 2:7–11.
2. Another scripture or statement from a Church leader. (You could use the statement by Elder Duncan below or one of the scriptures he mentions.)
3. Your own thoughts and testimony about giving love and forgiveness to others and how that can help us come closer to the Savior.

## Teachings about Forgiveness

Elder Kevin R. Duncan of the Seventy said:



I am convinced that most of us want to forgive, but we find it very hard to do. When we have experienced an injustice, we may be quick to say, “That person did wrong. They deserve punishment. Where is the justice?” We mistakenly think that *if* we forgive, somehow justice will not be served and punishments will be avoided.

This simply is not the case. God will mete out a punishment that is fair, for mercy cannot rob justice (see Alma 42:25). God lovingly assures you and me: “Leave judgment alone with me, for it is mine and I will repay. [But let] peace be with you” [Doctrine and Covenants 82:23]. (Kevin R. Duncan, “The Healing Ointment of Forgiveness,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2016, 33–34)

- Matthew 5:43–44
- Ephesians 4:32