

# WE BELONG

29TH MARCH 2015  
ALLAN DEMOND  
HEAL BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS - FORGIVENESS  
COL 3: 13

'Forgiveness comes to you and flows through you.'

Read Colossians 3:12-13. How would you connect these two verses?

How do these verses illustrate that broken relationships are put back together through forgiveness?

How is God's 'chosen people' (those 'dressed up') empowered to forgive?

Can you share with the Group an example from your own life?

The Lord wants us to know freedom. How might we know freedom through forgiveness?

On Palm Sunday we see Christ entering Jerusalem as King yet also weeping over Jerusalem as he saw peace being hidden from the people's eyes. Jesus cries when we say/act as if we don't need forgiveness. What part of your life do you find hardest to allow Jesus to forgive you? (Share in pairs where you feel comfortable)

Read Mat 6: 14-15. What are the consequences if we refuse to forgive others? Discuss these two sides of forgiveness and also the claim that we are blessed as we forgive with it helping to foster community.

As we forgive we are cleansed; the sequence of forgiveness is:

- a. God forgives us through Christ
- b. As we ask and embrace this forgiveness we have less anxiety; we are given peace our health is improved.
- c. Forgiveness flows through us and brings healing to others. It fosters connectedness & relationships including community healing.

Discuss all three stages including placing yourself in situations 2 & 3.

Allan shared the powerful example of the forgiveness offered by Pastor Jack (A Palestinian Israeli Arab Christian that Allan met recently in Bethlehem), "I have chosen not to be bitter but to offer forgiveness'. How does that encourage you to forgive? Can you be praying for Pastor Jack?

Set aside time and space for forgiveness prayer, as appropriate.