Discussion Title: Why forgive…?	**Category**: Relationships

	Opening:	Pick 2 individual to share. 5 minutes total.
Q.	**Have you ever been stopped by a policeman, but not been ticketed?**	
Q.	**How did you feel?**	
Lesson:		
Q.	**Cite other examples in which you should have been in trouble, but got off.** • It feels good to escape penalty! • The need in our marriages and in our relationship is to make others feel this way – in other words to forgive them.	Pick 1-2 individuals to answer each question (Q). Keep track of time during the discussion. Keep the discussion focused and on point. Avoid going off on a tangent topic. Additional notes:
Q.	**What are some obstacles to forgiving others?** • Desire for revenge • Desire for satisfaction (apology) • Reluctance to face the issue	
Q.	**Why do we need to forgive?** • Discuss Let's see what the Bible has to say about this topic: **Matthew 6:14-15** To receive God's forgiveness **Colossians 3:13** To imitate the LORD **Ephesians 4:32** Because it is a command **Hebrews 12:14-15** To avoid bitterness	
Q.	**What is typically required of a person in order for us to forgive them?** • An apology, evidence of repentance **Luke 23:34** Jesus on the cross	
Q.	**What did Jesus require?** Nothing **Luke 17:3-4** If a person repents, you must forgive them. **Luke 17:5** Disciples thought it would take more faith. **Luke 17:6** Jesus said (in effect) to use the faith you have We cannot(?) forgive all by ourselves! It is an issue of your heart – no one else's.	
Q.	**How do you feel when you really forgive someone?** • Free, like a burden has been lifted • Released. Relieved • Healed and forgiven • Clear conscience • Free from bitterness	