**Series: Connect August 21, 2016**

**Message: The Forgiveness Connection**

****The most powerful connector in the relationships that matter most is forgiveness. Matthew 6:9-15

Without forgiveness there can be no meaningful relationship.

**What forgiveness is not:**

1. Justifying their actions.

2. Trusting the passage of time.

3. Denying that you are hurt.

4. Confronting personally.

**Steps to forgive others:**

* Remember. Isaiah 1:18; Matthew 18:32-35
* Release. Romans 12:17-19
* Recognize. Romans 8:28
* Reestablish. Romans 12:18; Romans 12:21

**Forgiving yourself is a requirement for connecting with others.**

* Come to God for Forgiveness. 1 John 1:9
* God forgives: specifically, instantly, completely, repeatedly, freely

**Forgiving others and myself requires changing my life pattern.**

Philippians 2:12-13

**Forgiving others and myself requires creating a new future for the relationship.** Matthew 16:18; 2 Corinthians 12:19

**A prayer for forgiving others:**

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for how much You have forgiven me. Today, I forgive *(say the name of the person you are forgiving)*. God, I’m forgiving them for (*just tell God what it is; He already knows, but there is something about saying it and releasing that person*). God show me the action I need to take to reestablish the relationship. Help me to forgive others as much as You have forgiven me. In Jesus name, amen.

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**Talking To God**

Take some time to list below what is weighing down your heart

and bring it to God in prayer:

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