Clear Path Bible Studies *Understand the Bible with clarity and confidence.*

Does forgiving mean letting them back in?

One page for the space between forgiving and staying safe

START HERE

"If it is possible, as much as it is up to you, be at peace with all men."

Romans 12:18 · WEB

If you are in danger now, getting help comes before this page. Nothing here asks you to contact the person who hurt you. Jesus teaches mercy (Matthew 18:21–35) and carried a debt we couldn't pay, and He also kept out of reach of people trying to harm Him (Luke 4:30). Christians describe forgiveness in slightly different ways, but whichever way you lean, Scripture never makes you resume unsafe contact.

Forgiveness

Letting go of revenge and handing it to God (Romans 12:19). It isn't pretending it was small, giving up on reporting, or forcing warm feelings. *Ask: What would it mean to seek justice without making revenge my job?*

Reconciliation

Rebuilding the relationship. It takes both people, truth (Luke 17:3), and safety. *Ask: Is there a safe, willing, two-sided process, or am I being pressured to do it alone?*

Trust

Confidence earned over time. It can be limited and specific, and some change may still not be enough for renewed access. *Ask: What does their behavior actually support, and what boundary do I still need?*

Name the debt

What they did, and what it cost you.

Hand over the file

"I hand the account, and the right to repay, to You."

My lane today

The boundary I'm keeping, or the door that stays closed.

This is a prayer, not a letter. It is never sent, never shown, and never owed to the person who hurt you. If someone at home might find this page, pray it without writing it down. Then tell one safe person, or a trained advocate, where you stand.

FOR THE NIGHTSTAND

"Don't seek revenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to God's wrath."

Romans 12:19 · WEB

In the U.S., the National Domestic Violence Hotline is 800-799-7233, or text START to 88788 (24/7, free, confidential).

If you're thinking about harming yourself, call or text the **988** Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (U.S.), any hour. In immediate danger, call 911. Elsewhere, call local emergency services.

Scan to open the guide

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