

Halfway there
WEDNESDAY

You wanna be ...

experienced
accomplished;
adept; trained;
proficient; competent

or

incapable
helpless; powerless;
incapacitated; unable
unfit; inept; unqualified

'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.'

Ephesians 4:32

Throw your hands up
THURSDAY

A.M.

A.M.

Noon

Noon

P.M.

P.M.

Make a difference ...

Step up:

When someone has done you wrong, even when they don't deserve it, make the choice to forgive them. Take your hurt to Jesus and work through it like He showed us. How can we expect God to forgive us of our sins if we won't show His love toward others by forgiving them?

Take it up a notch:

Maybe you need to go directly to that person and tell them you forgive them. Have a conversation and let them know you aren't holding it against them. This doesn't mean you have to allow yourself to be mistreated in the future, it just means you aren't going to let that hate control your thinking or actions. Maybe they are sorry for it. Or maybe not; that doesn't matter.

Poll your friends ...

Are you refusing to forgive someone for doing something wrong to you?

Yes

No

Jesus did lots of miracles while He was on the earth. Read about one of them here:

Luke 22:50-51

Eve

Eve

FRIDAY

Finale

The act of betrayal cuts extra deep



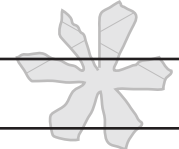
WEEKEND

WoodHoo!

A.M.

Sat.

Noon



P.M.

Sun.

Eve

There's not a lot that hurts more than to be betrayed by someone you thought cared about you. Friends — and sometimes even family members — can do some serious damage. Because of your relationship with them, you know them extremely well, and they know you well, too. When you are so close with someone like that, it only makes you feel worse if they turn against you or let you down. You wouldn't care as much if it was a stranger, because you haven't invested a lot of time and memories with that person, building a relationship with them. Even though Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray Him at some point, I'm sure it must have hurt

Him very deeply to go through it. Imagine them traveling together, eating all their meals together and hanging out all the time, learning what each person likes and doesn't like, cracking jokes and having fun — only to find, after spending all that time, that this supposed friend would turn Him over to an angry mob who would eventually get Him killed. So, when you feel betrayed, understand that Jesus totally knows what that hurt feels like. He understands what you're going through. He stands by your side and comforts you when you're struggling through those awful, painful feelings. He won't leave you.

Did you know?

Did you know that Jesus knew that Judas was going to betray Him before he even did it? In Luke 22:21, during a Passover feast (also known as the Last Supper), Jesus openly talks about the fact that His betrayer is in the group, right there at the table with them. The students are puzzled, wondering which one would do such a thing. Back up a bit in the chapter, to Luke 22:1-6; it tells about Judas and his arrangement with the chief priests to be compensated (paid money) to betray Jesus.

So, let's wrap it up



Vicky's
view

In case you've never heard the rest of the story, after Judas betrays his teacher, Jesus is arrested. The priests want Him gone, He's causing them trouble with the people. (Basically they wanted everyone to depend on them and their great wisdom, instead of someone else.) They were so full of themselves and their own laws that they couldn't even tell when the long-awaited — and promised — Messiah (who was Jesus) actually arrived. The priests should've been so excited that Jesus was with them, but no, they had become corrupt. They felt threatened by His teachings and did not believe He was the true Son of God. Jesus was eventually sentenced to die by hanging on a cross.

So, knowing this, you may be wondering why Jesus didn't stop the betrayal of

Judas, since He knew what would happen later.

Jesus went to that death voluntarily. It was all part of a bigger plan.

In John 3:16, it says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

In order for Jesus to be resurrected, He first had to die. When He did those things, He took the power and control over death and Hell away from the devil.

In Revelation 1:18, it says, "I am He that lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

Being redeemed by Jesus, believers can now go to Heaven when this life is over.

So, what's the difference between believers and those condemned to spend

forever in hell?

It all goes back to the problem of sin.

We are all sinners. God is Holy. He literally does not occupy the same space as sin (remember we talked about that in one of the previous weeks). Anything not pure and holy would instantly be gone, burned up, disintegrated, in His presence. There would be nothing left of us.

But, if you'll remember, Jesus was the perfect man — He never sinned. Sinners are condemned to death. He was not.

Since He has control over death and hell, it's His call to decide who gets the freedom He purchased.

When we go to Him with a repentant heart (turning away from sin) and ask Him to forgive us of our sins, His grace covers us. In Ephesians 1:7, it says, "In Him we have redemp-

tion through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ..."

Jesus allowed His innocent blood to be spilled so we could be saved. He paid the price (consequences/cost) of sin for us all.

But, some don't acknowledge the need for a Savior — and that Jesus died to pay for those sins and rose again. Those who don't turn away from those sins and don't ask Jesus for forgiveness, then those people are still condemned to an eternity in hell.

What a horrible fate, when the debt has already been paid.

There is no good reason that anyone should go to hell — because He made a way of escape. But, sadly, those who reject what Jesus did for them will.

Ponder this:

Have you ever been betrayed? How did you cope with that?

Time to take charge of your life:

(Fill in the blank ...)

has been bugging me lately, bringing me down. What can I do to change that? Do I need help from someone else? Who?

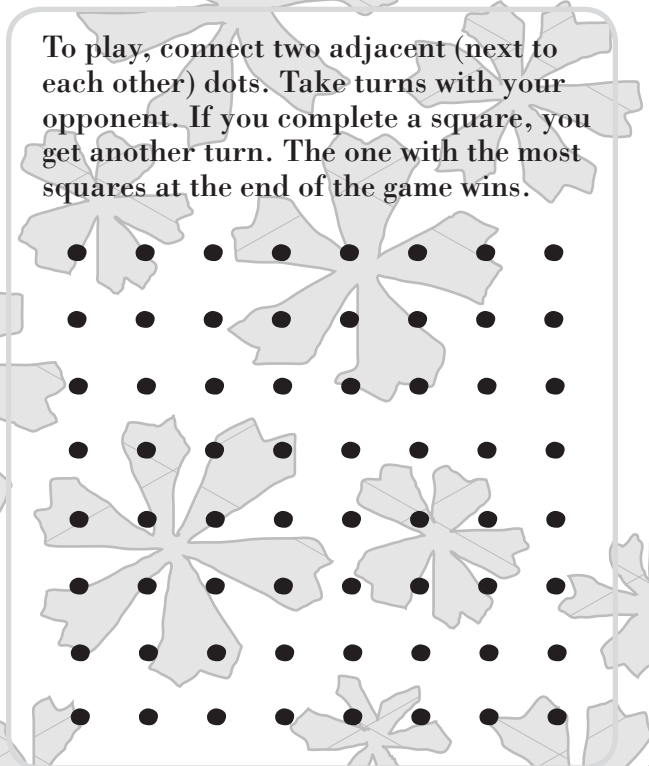
Something good that happened this week was:

Let's read:

Luke 22

Claiming the promised land

To play, connect two adjacent (next to each other) dots. Take turns with your opponent. If you complete a square, you get another turn. The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins.



You are ...

awesome

Matthew 7:7

answer on page 315

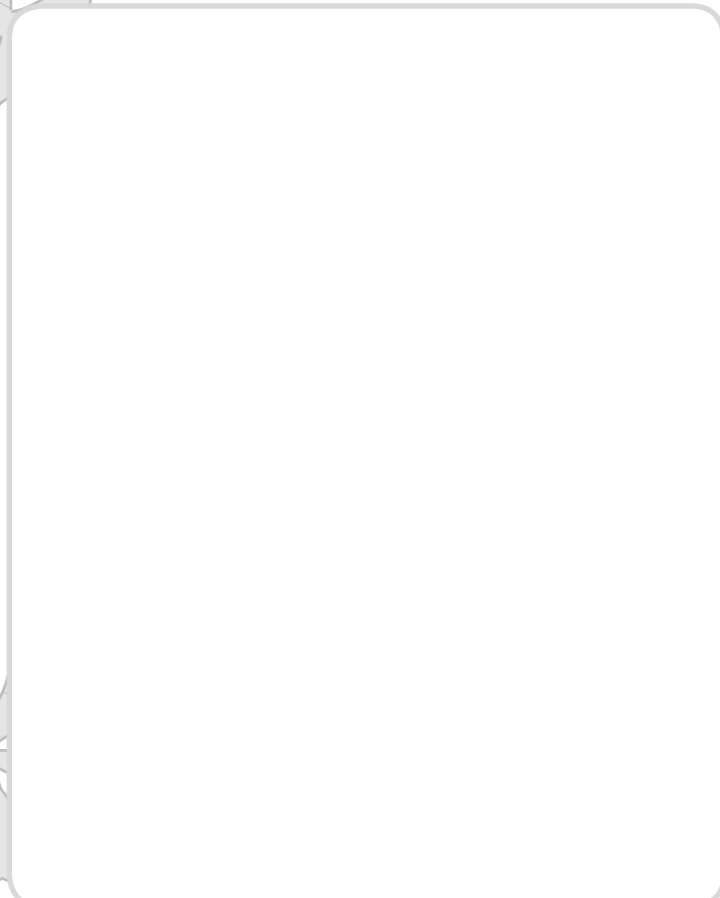
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M	S	S	I	K	I	S	E	S	Z	U	P
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BETRAY
 JUDAS
 JESUS
 SCATTERED
 SHEPHERD
 RAISED

STUMBLE
 KISS
 SWORDS
 CLUBS
 PRIESTS
 EAR

SEIZE
 RABBI
 SCRIPTURES
 FULFILLED
 DISCIPLES
 FLED

Doodle Box



Wandering the wilderness

Make your way along the words to make a sentence. Your journey will form one single path. You can only go north, south, east, or west and the path must never cross over itself. Start at the northwest corner and finish at the southeast corner.



W H R E O R
 N E A S F H
 Y O U T K E
 G G U R S L
 L I N G A P

answer on page 331

Discover

answer on page 324

