

**Theme**

The Last of 5 Phases of Forgiveness: The Step-Up (Sanctification)

**Memory Verse**

*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. **Romans 8:15***

**Bible Verses**

**John 21:15-18**

**Big Ideas**

- ➡ Jesus forgives us so we can share that gift of forgiveness with others.
- ➡ One thing everyone has in common is that they have been forgiven.
- ➡ Forgiveness bridges the gap between us and God.
- ➡ When we each bring our own talents and abilities, we can create something new!

**Dear Parents:**

Sanctification is a big word. Not only is it a big word, but it packs a punch in it's meaning: the act of making or declaring something as holy. It is the action or process of being freed from sin or purified. When we talk about the last phase in forgiveness, Stepping Up, what we are really wanting our students to see is that the process of being freed from sin is the work of Jesus. It's always been His saving power. But we are invited to be a part of that process of being made holy. They may not save themselves, but they can help free someone else. When a Mess Up happens, your child is owed a debt of pain. When they forgive, they are freeing that other person from their "pain debt". In order to do that, they have to absorb that pain. They are letting go of their right to get even or make things fair. Stepping up to that challenge is a big one, but we know your child has what it takes to accept this challenge. They have the power of the Holy Spirit on their side. If God is for them, who can be against them? (**Romans 8:31**)

**Challenge:**

Discuss the following questions as a family. Identify one person that can be released from their debt.

- Who needs to be released from a debt they owe you? What did they do to create that debt? What will it cost you to forgive? How painful will it be to forgive [rate from "pretty easy" (1) or "hardest thing ever" (10)]? Do you need to talk with this person? (Yes/No)

As a family, commit to forgiving this person in your life. No matter what. No strings attached. Simply because God's forgiveness for you is big enough to cover it.

