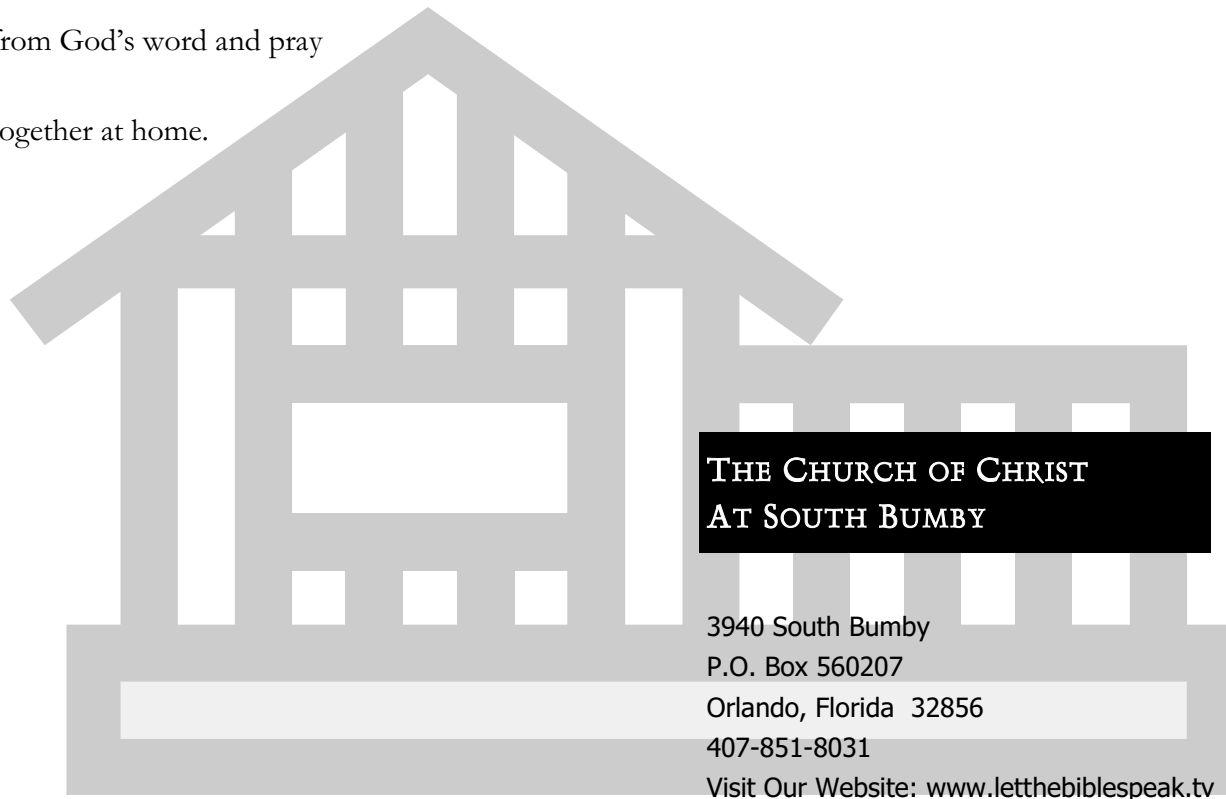


About Growing Together @ Home

Growing Together @ Home is a
brief guide provided by the South
Bumby Church to give our families a
framework they can use as they study
from God's word and pray
together at home.



Other Things To Do This Week:

- [1] Search the Bible together for passages that talk about forgiveness. Memorize Colossians 3:13 "... even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."
- [2] Help your children prepare their lessons for Bible class.

**THE CHURCH OF CHRIST
AT SOUTH BUMBY**

GROWING TOGETHER @ HOME

*A Weekly Guide
For Family
Devotions*

Those who
love Your law
have great
peace, And
nothing
causes them
to stumble.

Ps. 119:165

September 7, 2003

APPLICATION

DAY ONE

STEP #1: THE PRINCIPLE

Have each family member read Matthew 6:14-15

- [1] Why should we be concerned about forgiveness?

STEP #2: THE SEARCH

Have each family member read Matthew 18:21-35. In this chapter is a story that deals with forgiveness.

- [1] Is the principle of Matthew 6:14-15 upheld in this story?
- [2] Consider v. 33: Why should we be motivated to consider our own actions?
- [3] How does this answer the question of “How many times?”
- [4] Discuss the attitude behind the question — “How many times?”

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to give us the wisdom to understand the principles of forgiveness and the courage to be forgiving.

DAY TWO

STEP #1: EFFECTS

Have each family member read John 8:3-11

STEP #2: THE DISCOVERY

After each family member has completed the reading the story, talk over the situation. Then, discuss these questions.

- [1] Was Jesus failing to keep the Old Law by forgiving this woman?
- [2] What motivation might Jesus have to provide forgiveness to this woman?
- [3] Is Justice the most important thing in God’s relationship with people? If not, what is more important? (read John 3:16)
- [4] Think of examples (personal experiences, newspaper, television shows, etc.) that demonstrate how love and forgiveness is more important than justice.

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to help us always to be humble in his sight — to consider how we might be forgiving in all of our relationships.

DAY THREE

STEP #1: The Practice

It is insufficient to have mental agreement that we must be forgiving — we must learn to practice having a forgiving spirit.

Read John 3:16 and consider:

- [1] What was the primary motivation for God’s action? Can this be a motivator for us?

Read Matthew 9:13 and consider:

- [1] Why does God desire mercy? Can this be a motivator for us?

STEP #2: THE APPLICATION

The easiest time for Satan to influence us is when we are not watching. One of the best ways for us to not be caught off-guard is to practice looking for situations in advance in which we are likely to be tempted to be unforgiving.

Separately:

- [1] Make a list of at least 2 situations in which you are tempted to be unforgiving.
- [2] Consider in each situation what the wisest course of action would be.

Together:

- [1] Ask other family members what you should do in these situations.

Daily: Remind yourself of the long-term effects of unforgiveness.

STEP #3: THE PRAYER

End your session with prayer, asking God to help us as a family to set the right example for each other - to guard our hearts, and to act wisely. Ask for His strength in times of temptation.