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11AM Bible Study Series, November 4, 2026
Forgiveness, Boundaries, and Relationships
Two-Part Series | Practical Christian Living
Lesson 2: Forgiveness Doesn't Mean Unlimited Access
Pastor Grant McCray, IV

Primary Scriptures: Proverbs 4:23; Romans 12:17–21 | Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 10:16; Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 18:15–17
Main idea: We can forgive someone without immediately restoring the same level of access, closeness, or trust to that person.

Point One: Guarding your heart is a biblical responsibility
1. Love does not require unlimited access.
2. Wisdom helps us recognize patterns rather than simply reacting to promises.
3. Boundaries help us determine what behavior we will accept and how we will respond when a boundary is crossed.
4. Guarding your heart is not the same as building walls around your life.

Scripture Support: _____

Point Two: Forgiveness and reconciliation are not the same thing
1. Forgiveness and reconciliation answer different questions.
2. An apology is meaningful, but changed behavior matters too.
3. Trust is not restored simply because someone demands that you trust them.
4. Pursuing peace does not require remaining in an unsafe or abusive situation.

Scripture Support: _____

Point Three: Healthy boundaries allow love and wisdom to work together
1. Healthy boundaries are clear, consistent, and focused on behavior.
2. Boundaries may look different depending on the relationship.
3. Boundaries are not a way to punish people for hurting us.
4. Love does not require us to take responsibility for another person's choices.
5. The goal of boundaries is healthier relationships, not isolation.

Scripture Support: _____

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Questions for personal reflection

1. Am I holding on to resentment, or do I need to establish a healthier boundary? Consider whether the primary issue is unresolved anger, repeated harmful behavior, or a combination of both.
2. Is there a relationship where I have confused forgiveness with restoring trust too quickly? Think about whether you have felt pressured to return to the same level of closeness before the relationship was ready.
3. What would it look like to respond with both grace and wisdom? Consider whether an honest conversation, a clear boundary, a period of distance, or appropriate outside support may be needed.

Closing challenge:

This week, identify one relationship where you need either to extend forgiveness, have an honest conversation, or establish a healthier boundary. Ask God to help you respond with grace instead of bitterness and wisdom instead of guilt.