



FORGIVENESS DAY

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Forgiveness is one of the most important first steps to ending conflicts in our families, our communities and between nations. Most conflicts begin because one person or group feels they have been wronged by another person or group.

Forgiveness is not glossing over a problem or excusing it without consequences, or letting someone continue to treat you badly. It's always important to first get out of a dangerous situation, such as a violent or abusive relationship. Forgiveness does not have to include reconciliation, where both sides work to create a healthy and peaceful ongoing relationship. Forgiveness is a personal decision to not allow anger, hurt and resentment to control your life, and to forgive someone who has wronged you, even if they don't deserve it.

Learning to let go and forgive isn't always easy, but when we truly forgive, it helps foster better health, better relationships, a deeper sense of purpose and self worth and a feeling of connection to others. The healing power of forgiveness reached international attention after the end of apartheid in South Africa when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission helped to bring the bitterly divided nation together after decades of segregation and violence.

Because of its importance, there several days devoted to forgiveness and reconciliation. Advice columnist Ann Landers is responsible for popularizing the April 2 celebration of Reconciliation Day, as a day to try to try to patch up a broken or strained relationship. In South Africa, Reconciliation Day is celebrated on December 16. The Worldwide Forgiveness Alliance promotes the first Sunday in August as International Forgiveness Day, hoping to spread awareness about the healing power of forgiveness to create "a safer, more joyful and peaceful world."

Be A Hero For A Better World!

- 1. Find out more about the power of forgiveness and reconciliation
- 2. Think about someone who has wronged you and work towards forgiving them
- 3. Seek forgiveness from someone you have wronged

Forgiveness Links

- Campaign for Forgiveness Research (forgiving.org)
- Campaign for Love & Forgiveness (fetzer.org/LoveAndForgive)
- The Forgiveness Project (theforgivenessproject.com)
- Forgiveness Web (forgivenessweb.com)
- Worldwide Forgiveness Alliance (forgivenessday.org)

For more information: www.betterworldcalendar.com/forgivenessday.htm

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"We cannot change the past, but we can change our attitude toward it. Uproot guilt and plant forgiveness. Tear out arrogance and seed humility. Exchange love for hate ---

thereby, making the present comfortable and the future promising." -- Maya Angelou

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"I can forgive, but I cannot forget, is only another way of saying, I will not forgive. Forgiveness ought to be like a cancelled note torn in two, and burned up, so that it never can be shown against one." -- Henry Ward Beecher

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FORGIVENESS DAY FIRST SUNDAY IN AUGUST



"Forgiving is one of the most difficult things for a human being to do, but I think it means looking at some slight you feel, putting yourself in the position of the other person, and wiping away any sort of resentment and antagonism you feel toward them. Then let that other person know that everything is perfectly friendly and normal between you." -- Jimmy Carter

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FIRST SUNDAY

"People can be more forgiving than you can imagine. But you have to forgive yourself. Let go of what's bitter and move on." -- Bill Cosby

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"Life is an adventure in forgiveness." -- Norman Cousins

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"We plant seeds that will flower as results in our lives, so best to remove the weeds of anger, avarice, envy and doubt, that peace and abundance may manifest for all." -- Dorothy Day

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"When you are happy you can forgive a great deal." -- Princess Diana

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"...teach myself to see each of us through the lens of forgiveness..." -- Ani DiFranco

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"The only way children can learn the habit of forgiveness is by seeing us, their parents, forgive others and forgive ourselves." -- Naomi Drew

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FORGIVENESS DAY FIRST SUNDAY IN AUGUST

Ε Т T G O F O R G Ε

> "For every minute you remain angry, you give up sixty seconds of peace of mind." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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"Forgiveness does not overlook the deed. It rises above it." -- Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela

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"Before we can forgive one another, we have to understand one another." -- Emma Goldman

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"It is impossible for people who have given their heart to seeking forgiveness not to think of forgiving others. Just as they desire to be forgiven, they also desire to forgive." -- M. Fethullah Güllen

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"To forgive oneself? No, that doesn't work: we have to be forgiven. But we can only believe this is possible if we ourselves can forgive." -- Dag Hammarskjöld

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FIRST SUNDAY



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"Watch out for each other. Love and forgive everybody. It's a good life, enjoy it!" -- Jim Henson

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"If you haven't forgiven yourself something, how can you forgive others?" -- Dolores Huerta

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"You're only human. Let's break free of this gravity of judgment And fly high on the wings of forgiveness." -- India.Arie

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"You dont have to hold on to the pain, to hold on to the memory." -- Janet Jackson

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"We all have someone or something to forgive . . . and when we learn how, we become free to increase success in every area of our life. " -- Azim Khamisa

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"In spite of the fact that the law of revenge solves no social problems, men continue to follow its disastrous leading. History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path." -- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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"Real freedom is creative, proactive, and will take me into new territories. I am not free if my freedom is predicated on reacting to my past." -- Kenny Loggins

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"To forgive is the highest, most beautiful form of love. In return, you will receive untold peace and happiness." -- Robert Muller

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"Our capacity to make peace with another person and with the world depends very much on our capacity to make peace with ourselves." -- Thich Nhat Hanh

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"Force may subdue, but love gains, and he that forgives first wins the laurel." -- William Penn

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"When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?" -- Eleanor Roosevelt

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"I want to rid my heart of envy, and cleanse my soul of rage before I'm through." -- Paul Simon

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FIRST SUNDAY



"If we really want to love, we must learn how to forgive." -- Mother Teresa

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"Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it." -- Mark Twain

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"The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world." -- Marianne Williamson

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