Text:	Genesis	1:26-28;	3:16-19,	21
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God's	First	Act of	Forgiv	eness
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notions of forgiveness.

Take the time to read the text ______.

What in God's Nature Makes Him Forgiving?

We need to expand our _____ of God's love.

- _____ that affirm God's forgiving nature.
 - o Ps 86:5; 130:4; Isa 43:25; Mk 10:45; Jn 3:16; Ep 4:32; 1 Jn 1:9

Life Enrichment

What about today's teaching challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- Who has helped you learn to forgive? What lessons have they taught you and how did they teach them?
- Why do you think it's important that we anchor our understanding of forgiveness in the character of God?
- The word forgiveness is not used in Genesis 3, but the principle is lived out. Other than the incident found in verse 21, what other hints of forgiveness do you see in Genesis chapter 3?
- Why do you think we assume that forgiveness is pardon without consequences? What other false notions of forgiveness do we hold?
- Why do you think we tend to relate to God through negotiation or see Him as a type of Santa Claus? How are both inadequate?
- What are some ways that we attempt to negotiate our forgiveness by God? How do we try and perform our way to forgiveness?
- Since God's forgiveness only comes by His giving and our receiving, what
 posture should we take to receive His forgiveness? How does this help us
 become better forgivers?