

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of October 2, 2016**

**When You Can’t Forgive and Forget**

*The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guide-posts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers.*

**READ:** I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. *Isaiah 43:25*

**REFLECT:** “I know John has told me he’s sorry but it still bugs me,” I said to my golfing partner.

“You don’t believe in forgiveness?” Tim questioned.

“Sure I do. I’ve tried to forgive him and forget about it. But still, he lost my class notes.” I sighed, took a few practice swings and hit a beautiful shot to within six feet of the hole. “Wow!” I exclaimed. “Sure is a lot better than dropping it in the water like I did on the last hole. This is one reason I like golf—every hole is a fresh chance. Guess that makes gold a lot like life.”

I looked down the fairway at my ball, then back at the pond. “Hey, Tim, remind me to call John,” I said, smiling. “I think it’s time he and I move on to the next hole.”

*Jeff Japinga*

**PRAY:** *Father, I need Your Spirit to help me forget sins against me the way You forget mine against You.*

**DO:** Put a golf ball on your desk for a while (or another object that reminds you of the point of this story) to remind you to forgive and move on.

**ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. Copies can be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website ([evbapt.org/archive](http://evbapt.org/archive)). The full Pause to Pray is used in our Wednesday prayer time. An abbreviated version appears in the Sunday bulletin.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service—the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message “The First Resurrection” (1 Kings 17:17-24)—that all will help as you go through this week; for your own walk with Christ, and that you may be a blessing and witness to people you have contact with during the week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection and compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.
- Pray that God will bless our succession planning efforts (Pastor Dave and Jennie anticipate retirement, tentatively late spring 2017). Pray for God’s direction as several people from the Planning Group meet this week with representatives of two churches that have made offers to purchase our property to discuss questions and next steps—in preparation for the Open forum to be held October 16. (Note the change in date to accommodate the schedules of key people. October 9 will be used for a Concert of Prayer in preparation for this important Forum).

*\* A podcast of the sermon and PDF files of other material will be posted on the website by Monday.*

*Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website ([evbapt.org](http://evbapt.org)), with printed copies available in the lobby.*

*To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”*