

When Eric Smallridge's drunk driving killed Renee Napier's daughter, Meagan, and Meagan's friend, Lisa, Renee didn't know what to do. One way she dealt with the overwhelming grief was to give presentations on the dangers of drinking and driving. Another way she dealt with the horror was by forgiving Eric Smallridge. Not only did Renee say she forgave Eric, she even asked the judge to cut Eric's prison time in half. People everywhere have been amazed at Renee's demonstration of love and forgiveness.

"There was no way I could move on and live a happy life without forgiving Eric," said Napier. "We live in a world with a lot of pain and heartache. I want to promote love and forgiveness and help break that cycle of hatred."

### Think about it . . .

- Has anyone ever terribly hurt you or someone you love? How did you respond?
- How hard do you think it was for Renee to forgive the man who had caused her daughter's death?

July 14, 2013  
Lesson 7

# The Beat



## Songs of Forgiveness

Christian musician Matthew West wrote a song about Renee's story. He called it "Forgiveness." Form small groups and talk about times when forgiveness might be needed. Choose one time to forgive and work together to write a song about that situation. Write the words so they can be sung to a familiar tune, such as "This Old Man" ("Barney Song"). Share the song with your classmates.

Besides saying, "I forgive you," what is a way to show that you forgive someone?



Article and activity by Rebecca Haynes Mott.  
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