

Forgiveness Process Case Study

Laura was five years old when her Uncle Jim began touching her inappropriately. At first the touches were very subtle and presented as “hugs” and “kisses”. Uncle Jim would give her plenty of attention and tell her she was special. Being special initially felt good at a time when Laura’s parents were always fighting and she was feeling abandoned and lost. As time went on, the touching became more intimate and Uncle Jim convinced her that no one would believe her if she told. Laura felt very trapped and afraid. The abuse continued until she was fourteen when she finally told her parents and the school counselor. The school counselor reported the abuse and her parents became very angry, accused her of lying and blamed her for disrupting the family. The uncle denied the abuse and still attends family events as the family continues discount Laura’s story.

Now Laura is an adult and realizes the devastating impact the abuse continues to have on her life. She wants to forgive but is not sure how.

1. Who is the primary offender? What are the offenses?

2. Who is the secondary offender? What are the offenses?

3. What feelings might Laura be experiencing?

4. What are the steps Laura might take toward forgiveness?

5. What boundaries with Uncle Jim and family does Laura need to consider?

6. What important elements might be in her forgiveness plan?

7. How would God be a part of Laura's plan?
