

**Session 6 : Confirmation - God's Forgiveness**

It is highly likely that you have upset or hurt a friend at some time. It is equally likely that you have been upset by something a friend has said or done to you. When friends have an argument the immediate reaction is for them to ignore one another. If this continues the friends grow apart and the friendship dies.



After a bust up with a friend you may not want that person to be your friend any more. The problem with holding a grudge is that it will destroy you! If you are not capable of forgiving a person it is YOU that will eventually suffer. Life is too short to hold grudges after the initial pain of the fight has faded.

**In what ways have you hurt people?**

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**In what ways have people hurt you?**

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There is another course of action open to you. You can arrange a meeting to talk the problem through or even apologise. Let go of past hurts and get rid of bad feeling. Although it is very difficult to do, making up is a sign of courage and not weakness. Phone, write, text, shake hands, even hug!



### God's Tipp-ex

In many ways you can hurt your friendship with God. Anything you do to God or your neighbour that shows a lack of respect is a sin. In life it is very easy to have arguments with people. God is all-forgiving – whatever sins you have committed, He is able to forgive He just tipp-ex's them away and they are forgiven and forgotten. However there are some conditions to this,

- 1. You have to recognise your sins and ask for forgiveness**
- 2. You must try not to commit the sins again**
- 3. You have to forgive the other people who have hurt you**

These are difficult conditions and although you may not always be able to keep them, God asks you to try.

*'forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us'*

- Where does this come from?

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- What is meant by trespass?

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- What does this imply when we ask for forgiveness?

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As a group discuss some of the hurts That Jesus experienced. There were many of them. There are also many examples of Jesus' forgiveness of people. Discuss those that you can think of with your group and then fill in the tables on the next page.

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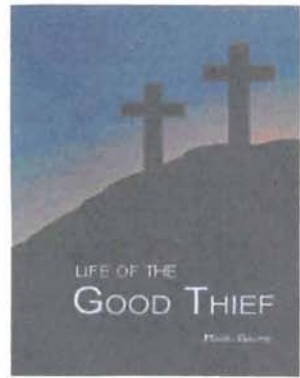
Jesus' hurts

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Jesus' forgiveness

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The pictures may help give you clues to some of the answers

Jesus has the authority from his father to forgive sins. He passed this authority to forgive to a few of His chosen followers when He said,

*'Those whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven. Those whose sins you shall retain they are retained'.*

This authority has been passed down through the priesthood in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Jesus works through the priest to forgive our sins. One of the signs used in the sacrament is extending his hands as he forgives you in God's name.

Confession is often dreaded by people and this fear often prevents them from going. Confession is only a meeting with a Father who is forgiving and this strengthens us for the future.

### **Discuss as a group**

What tips or guidelines would you give to a younger brother or sister who was preparing to go into Confession for the first time?

Now check your tips against the ones below

### **ROUGH GUIDE TO CONFESSION**

- 1. Prepare before you go in**  
(Think about what you are going to say)
- 2. Go in**
- 3. Bless me Father.**  
( Bless me Father for I have sinned. It is --- ( how long?) since my last Confession
- 4. Confess your sins**
- 5. The priest talks to you**  
(Listen to what he says)
- 6. Say the Act of Contrition**
- 7. Absolution (Forgiveness)**
- 8. Penance and goodbye**

### **What causes hurt and division?**

- Judging someone
- Talking about a person behind their back
- Cynicism and sarcasm
- Breaking trust or promises
- Taking a person for granted
- Spreading rumours or gossiping
- Lack of respect for another person's principles or beliefs
- Stealing or vandalism
- Treating others in a way you wouldn't want to be treated

### **Closing Prayer**

'Our Father' .... To be said all together

### **Teacher's Notes**

- I hope the attached lesson plan is fairly self-explanatory. The theme of this week's session is 'God's forgiveness' and I have therefore, asked Father John if he will hear individual Confessions throughout the evening. I think it best if my group go first as I have a Sixth form parents evening and I know that I will be late. Then perhaps Mike's group followed by Gary's and then Camilla's?

It may be advisable to look at the last task first, depending on the timing of your group's Confessions.

- Mike would you please do the introduction at the beginning of the session just by outlining what format the evening will take for the students benefit. I think it advisable to go straight into groups then. If I have not arrived by the time my group are finished their Confessions they can start filling in their task sheets until I arrive as the tasks are pretty straightforward.
- If groups could reconvene in the 'Upper Room' at 7.50pm for the plenary and closing prayer I think that's all we'll have time for.
- Prompts for you in answer to the **Jesus' hurts / Jesus' forgiveness task**

### **Jesus' hurts**

- Peter's denial at knowing Him
- The nine lepers who didn't give thanks for curing them
- Judas' rejection and betrayal of Jesus
- The money lenders/traders at the Temple
- The storm at sea
- Disbelief in Jesus' power to heal the sick
- Disbelief in who He was
- Disbelief in the Eucharist
- Welcomed as 'King of the Jews' and then put to death as a traitor

### **Jesus' forgiveness**

- Parable of the prodigal son
- The good thief
- Mary Magdalene
- The stoning of the adultress

Please E-mail me if there are any questions /advice/ ideas. Hope this looks O.K. I struggled to make forgiveness dynamic!!

Ita