

Do not judge, and you will not be judged.  
Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.  
Forgive, and you will be forgiven.  
(Luke 6:37, NIV)

# Forgiveness RE Wheel

IN HIM  
WE HAVE redemption  
THROUGH HIS blood  
THE forgiveness OF SINS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
THE riches OF GOD'S grace  
THAT HE lavished ON US.  
ephesians 1:7

**Watch**

**Think**

The Parable of the Lost Son  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zsmpvcw>  
Why was the moral of the story?  
How else may the father have reacted?

**SORRY: IS IT THE HARDEST WORD?**  
Is it easy or difficult to say sorry?  
Discuss this with your partner: If you are caught doing a bad thing, which of these is the easiest to say? Why?

'It wasn't my fault. Other people did worse than me.'	'I wasn't really being bad. I didn't mean it.'
'You don't understand! It didn't turn out how I expected.'	'I'm sorry, it was my fault. I was wrong. Please forgive me.'

Christian people believe God is interested in our actions. They say that God wants people to be good and never to choose evil. Christians also believe God is full of mercy and very forgiving. So what happens when Christians do bad things?  
Christian children are taught to admit when they are wrong. A verse from the Bible says: 'If we confess our sins to God, then He is faithful, and just, and will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9). When Christians say this Lord's Prayer, they ask God for forgiveness, and promise to forgive others too.

**Listen**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1Lu5udXEZI>



**Watch**

Watch & create a tally chart, how many times are the themes of 'Trust', 'Betrayal', 'Forgiveness' & 'Reconciliation' seen?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PSgoPdKQFQ>

**Reflect**

**A Prayer for Self-Forgiveness**  
Dear God,  
Please help me to forgive myself for the mistakes I think I've made. Please help me to release and heal guilt, shame, regret, and fear. Please help me to love, value, and appreciate myself as you love, value, and appreciate me.



**Observe**



What parts of the Easter story can you spot in the Stain glass windows and artwork?

**Respond**



What does this mean to you?

**Read**

**FOUR WAYS FOR CHRISTIANS TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD**  
What is good about each one? Which would be best for a Christian?

<p><b>PRAYING FOR FORGIVENESS</b> Lots of Christians confess their sins privately, as part of their prayers to God. Here is an example of a young person's prayer: 'Dear God, this week I have told some lies, and been unkind. I feel my temper and I forgot to thank mum and dad for lots of things. I wish I had been more loving. Please forgive me, and please help me to be more like Jesus next week. Amen' Many Christians say that praying like this brings a sense of peace and a fresh start when they need it.</p>	<p><b>RECONCILIATION WITH GOD</b> In the Roman Catholic Church, a person can confess to their priest, who will tell them that God forgives them. This is called the 'Sacrament of Reconciliation'. A person tells the priest the things they have done wrong. The priest may ask the person to do something, or to pray, to try and put right what has been done. The priest tells the person 'God forgives all who are truly sorry. Go in peace' (different words may be used at different times).</p>
<p><b>SYMBOLISING FORGIVENESS</b> In an Anglican church, the person leading the service has a large flat cross painted with blackboard paint on show at the front of church. She chalks onto the cross some ways humans go wrong. She writes: selfish/mean/unkind/dishonest/greedy/rude. She asks if the congregation want to add any more words to the cross. Everyone spends a short time in silence, considering anything they are sorry for doing. Two children come to the front of church with dusters, and wipe the cross clean, whilst the congregation sings a simple song: 'Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy' (There are many versions on YouTube. This one might be suitable: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MGVBQhGHS">www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MGVBQhGHS</a>)</p>	<p><b>SHREDDING YOUR SINS: THE GOD OF SECOND CHANCES</b> A church youth group wanted to show how forgiving God is. They gave everyone a piece of paper. Write on the paper all the things you are ashamed of, and fold it in half. They said: All the young people did this. They brought three office shredders to the front of church. One person stood behind each shredder, and every time one of the young Christians put their paper of shame into the shredder they spoke these sentences from the Bible: 'God is full of mercy. Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace.' The young people said afterwards it was a very moving way to express how sorry they felt.</p>

## Suggested Activities

Reflect—How does the Easter story show ultimate forgiveness?

Write a forgiveness prayer

Create forgiveness lyrics / poetry / artwork

Create a continuum—the beginning of the continuum is 'Easy to forgive' and the end represents 'Hard to forgive' What actions do you think Christians would find hard to forgive? What would be easy? Write them on your continuum.

What do you think Judas / Peter / Jesus would say reflecting on their actions—draw them and fill in speech bubbles with what you think they would say

Reflect—Think of a time when you forgave someone, how did you feel afterwards?

Talk to someone at home. Discuss, should all actions be forgiven?

## SORRY: IS IT THE HARDEST WORD?

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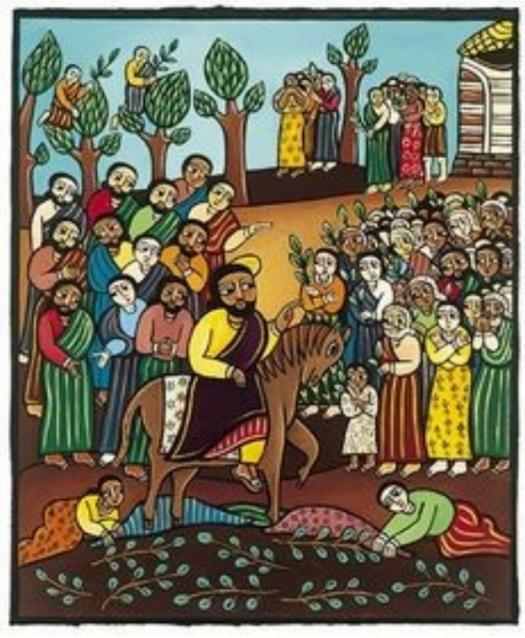
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## FOUR WAYS FOR CHRISTIANS TO BE RECONCILED TO GOD

What is good about each one? Which would be best for a Christian?

### PRAYING FOR FORGIVENESS

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*'Dear God, this week I have told some lies, and been unkind. I lost my temper and I forgot to thank mum and dad for lots of things. I wish I had been more loving. Please forgive me, and please help me to live more like Jesus next week. Amen'*

Many Christians say that praying like this brings a sense of peace and a fresh start when they need it.

### RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

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### SHREDDING YOUR SINS: THE GOD OF SECOND CHANCES

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