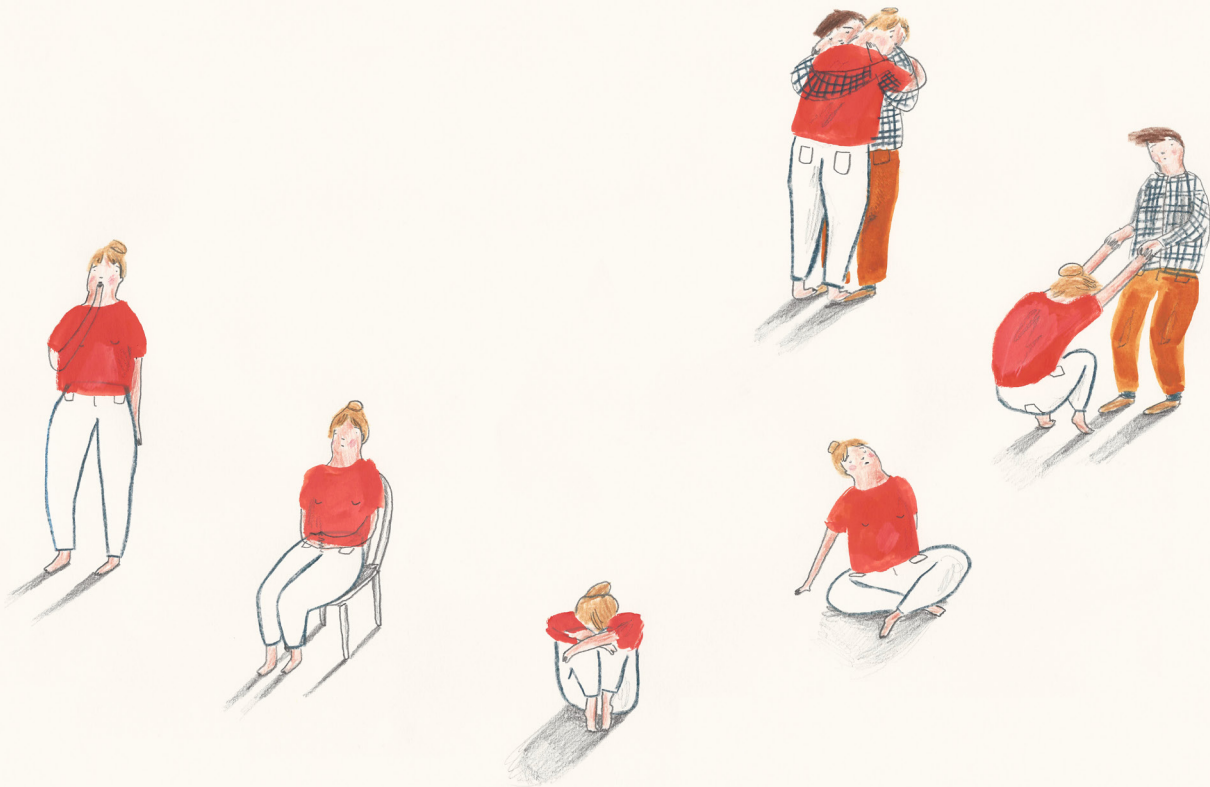


Handouts for Real Question 3:

When have you had to admit you were wrong and ask forgiveness? When have you found it hard to forgive? How does it feel to forgive, or be forgiven?



Real Question 3, Part 4: God Speaks Scripture Handout

Gospel of Luke, Chapter 15, Verses 11-31

Jesus also said, “A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.’ So the father divided the property between them. A few days later the younger son got together every thing he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch. So he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating, but no-one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, ‘How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say, Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.’ So he left the place and went back to his father.

While he was a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, ‘Father I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life, he was lost and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

Now the elder son was out in the fields and on his way back, as he drew near to the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. ‘Your brother has come,’ replied the servant, ‘And your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.’ He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, ‘Look all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we have been fattening.’ The father said, ‘My son, you are with me always, and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life, he was lost and is found.’”

Sharing the Blessing Questions from RQ3

- What caught your attention? A word, or phrase or picture? What is going on here? What does it say about the younger son? The father? The elder son?
- How did you know you had to admit you were wrong and ask forgiveness? How did you feel? When have you found it hard to forgive? How did you get through? What might God be saying to you about your life and relationships? A word of blessing, or encouragement? “I feel blessed because...”

Real Question 3, Closing Prayer Handout

Holy Mystery of God

Source of our strength to forgive,

We thank you for the blessing of forgiveness in our lives.

May the love you pour into our hearts unite us to you
and your merciful power, wherever we may be, giving us
the courage and love that always seeks to reconcile.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour

AMEN

The Counting our Blessings Prayer

Let our friendships be strong, O Lord, that they become a blessing to others.

Let our friendships be open O Lord, that they may be a haven for others.

Let our friendships be gentle O Lord, that they may bring peace to others, In Jesus name.

AMEN

Peace be with you!