

## FOLLOWERS – LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
6	2	3	HOLINESS	Confession	19: Forgiving others

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes  
(Mod = Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Num [NO. column] and Title)

							
Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L	Spatial S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kinaesthetic K <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Musical M	Intra - personal P1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N

Tick the appropriate box(es) above [ copy this:  ] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

**Prayer:** O almighty and merciful God, I truly thank thee for the forgiveness of my sins; bless me, O Lord, and help me always, that I may ever do that which is pleasing to thee, and sin no more. Amen.

**Starter:**

*Pray dough confessions.* Children will be invited to take a ball of play dough (pray dough) and to think about something you have done in the past week that they realize was wrong and recognize that you need God's forgiveness for that wrong in your life. They will be encouraged to shape the ball of dough into something that represents the thing that you have done wrong.

**Learning objectives:**

To learn that to forgive means to restore a bond of love and communion when there has been a rupture.  
To understand that we need to experience God's forgiveness and start learning how to forgive others.

**Core Activities and Learning**

1. The teacher will tell children that the liturgy is a place where mercy is encountered, the place where the great mystery of repentance is made present, proclaimed, celebrated and communicated.  
The teacher will explain to children that to forgive means to restore a bond of love and communion when there has been a rupture. Sin ruptures our relationship with God and others, as also do offences that are either taken or given among people. Reconciliation presupposes forgiveness. If we forgive someone, we need to be open to reconciliation. Reconciliation is forgiveness in action, the actual restoration of the interpersonal bond between two people, in mutual acceptance of each other for who each one is. Forgiveness and reconciliation can lead to a stronger bond than existed before. Each time an offence occurs, we can learn more about both the other and ourselves. This can lead to a deeper knowledge and understanding of each by the other.

In explaining what forgiveness and reconciliation means in our everyday life, the teacher will draw on personal experiences and offer a model of how we can restore a broken relationship. When we've made a mistake, and we all make them, the key is forgiveness. We can reconcile with God by asking God for forgiveness. We reconcile with our neighbour by asking his forgiveness. We can reconcile with ourselves by forgiving ourselves.

2. The teacher will explain to children that we need to experience God's forgiveness and start learning how to forgive others. The true forgiveness is inseparable from true repentance. For the wronged person to be able to forgive the offences against him or her, the person who wronged them must sincerely regret what they have done, turn from such behaviour, and, literally, turn away from the sinful deed or thought or mentality, and to God. The wrongdoer (offender) must ask God for mercy and forgiveness, but also to the person he or she has wronged. Only in a mutual, self-sacrificing love for God can true forgiveness occur between two people. When one party refuses to repent, no real forgiveness can occur, and without repentance and forgiveness, no real reconciliation can take place and thus, no true healing. The decision to forgive is not a right, but a gift, an honour, and a grace only the wronged person can ever possibly bestow with their own healing and God's grace and mercy.

3. Forgiveness prayer. Group discussion on forgiveness and reconciliation. The teacher will use illustrations to encourage children to engage and will guide discussion.

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of forgiveness. Thank You for creating a means by which I can be reconciled to You, to my neighbour, and in my own soul. Help me to manage sinful thoughts and actions. Help me to learn from my mistakes. Lead me to reconciliation with You. Lead me to reconciliation with my neighbour. Help me learn how to forgive myself. Assure me that You still love me, even when I've done something wrong. Help me to trust in Your will that my sins should be forgiven when I come to You with a repentant heart. Lord, forgive me for whatever I have done. Help me to make a new start today! Amen.

**Resources:**

Resource Sheet 19 (Children Confessing)

**Review:**

Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer that we should forgive others even as we are forgiven.

**Follow Up:**

For the next session think about how God heals us.