



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 18:21-22 (full reading: Matthew 18:21-35)

Then Peter came up and said to Jesus, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

Some things to think about...

- Jesus tells Peter to forgive 70x7 times – does he mean this exact number? What is he teaching us?
- Is it always easy to forgive? Why is it good to forgive people?
- Can you think of a time at Church when Catholics ask for forgiveness?
- If two friends have fallen out with each other, what can they do to be friends again?

Activity

- Come up with "Steps towards Reconciliation" (reconciliation means when two people are involved in forgiveness) using the template on the next page.

Teacher's notes

Forgiveness and Reconciliation are important teachings of Jesus, who came to earth to reconcile people with God.

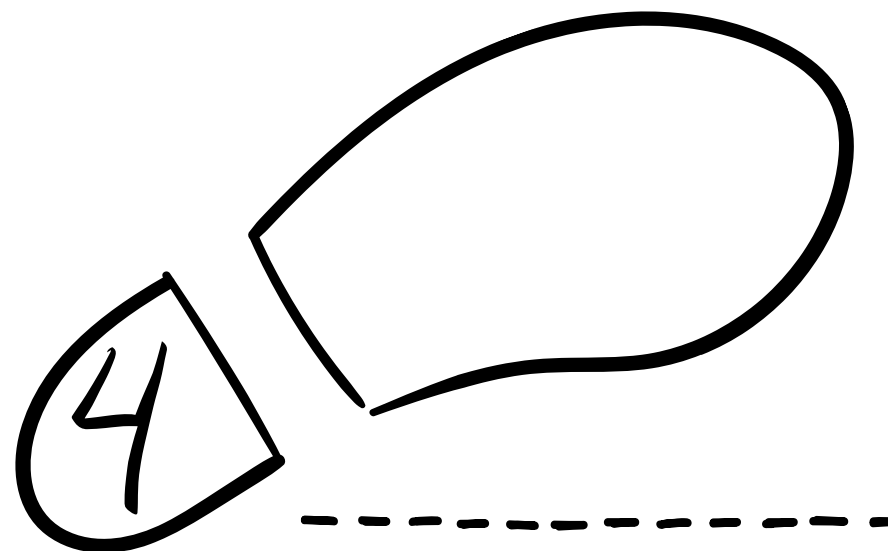
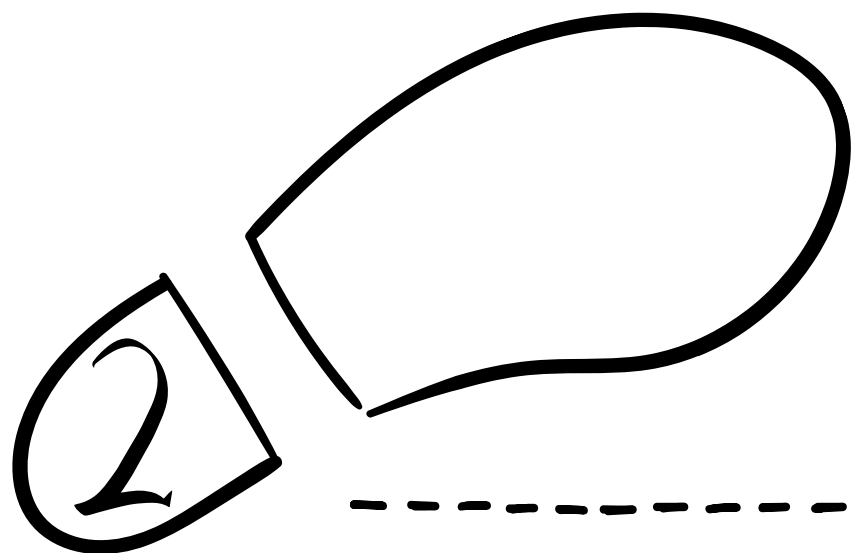
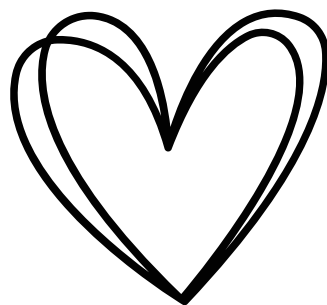
He taught that everyone is worthy of God's forgiveness and can be reconciled with God, which challenged the tradition at the time that rejected some people from society like Zaccheus the tax collector.

Forgiveness can be done by one person, but reconciliation involves both parties apologising for the hurt caused, listening to each other and coming to an understanding.

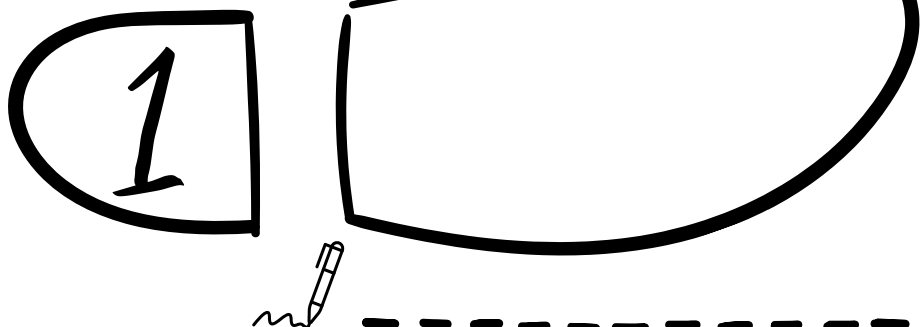
It may be good to explore with the children the idea that, although it is good to forgive, we can forgive and still set boundaries to prevent us from being hurt again.

Notes:

Steps towards Reconciliation



Put a drawing/symbol
here to show the action



Write the name of the
step e.g. "Listen"