

# How does God reconcile us with Him and with others?



## PRAY

### My Lord and my God!

How mighty you are and how merciful! You are now, and always were. You offer us new beginnings. We run away from you. Teach us how to come to you, God, with open arms. Amen.



## CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.  
Short silence.

**Exchange:** *What particularly appealed to you?*



## STUDY

1. Read YOUCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



## DISCUSS

**Also discuss your own questions on this topic!**

**Treasure Book:** *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



## CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at [feedback@youcat.org](mailto:feedback@youcat.org).

**#YOUCATChallenge:** *Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.*



## 1 Jn 1:8-9

If we say, "We are without sin," we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing.

### 228 Who can forgive sins?

**God alone can forgive sins. Jesus could say "Your sins are forgiven" (Mk 2:5) only because he is the Son of God. And priests can forgive sins in Jesus' place only because Jesus has given them that authority. [1441-1442]**

Many people say, "I can go directly to God; why do I need a priest?" God, though, wants it otherwise. We rationalize our sins away and like to sweep things under the rug. That is why God wants us to tell our sins and to acknowledge them in a personal encounter. Therefore, the following words from the Gospel are true of priests: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (Jn 20:23).

1. What is sin?
2. Why can't we offer ourselves forgiveness for our own sins?
3. How have you experienced confession, or what have others told you about it?
4. How can we prepare for confession? Why should we confess regularly? What is the advantage of confessing to the same priest?

Talk to friends about how awesome it would be to have a new start with a good confession. Get some people into your car and go confess. Celebrate afterwards.

Do you accept this challenge?

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