

MY BAD

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD



HOLLAND—WWII

Once there came a man to me and said, "Will you save my wife? She has been arrested for trying to help Jewish people. And now she is in the police station. And there is one policeman who will run the risk to set her free if we pay him six hundred guilders. But I have no money."

I said, "Don't worry about the money. Let's see . . . I have two hundred guilders, come back in an hour." And in that hour I asked all my friends to give money in order to save the life of this good woman. When the man came back I gave him six hundred guilders.

That man was a Ques-ling, a betrayer. His wife was not at all in prison. But the Gestapo, the police of the enemy, had said, "Find out if Corrie ten Boom saves Jewish people." Five minutes after I gave him the money, my house was surrounded by German soldiers. My family and I were all taken to the concentration camp.

Ten days after arriving in the camp my 84-year-old father died. Ten months later my sister, who I loved with all my heart, also died. My brother was released, but soon died from illness. Whenever I thought of that man, that betrayer, hatred would fill my heart.

—Corrie ten Boom, "The Greatest of These Is Love," Focus on the Family, 1992 (audio cassette).

Corrie ten Boom was a Dutch Christian who survived the Holocaust and wrote about her experiences in her book, *The Hiding Place*.



L.A.—SUMMER OF '92

It was a hot summer afternoon. Some would say it was a matter of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. The city of Los Angeles was literally in flames when a truck driver drove his truck through the intersection of Normandie and Florence avenues in south central Los Angeles. As the driver approached the intersection, a brick was thrown into his windshield. He applied his brakes, and five men pulled him from the truck and onto the street.

In the next few minutes, the men kicked him, punched him, and struck him in the head with a fire extinguisher. In perhaps the most graphic display of brutality, one of the attackers broke a cinder block on the driver's head, danced around him, and then stood in mock conquest with one foot on his neck. For an hour Reginald Denny would lie there—unconscious in a pool of blood, until people who lived near the intersection came to his rescue after watching the entire incident as it was filmed from a television news helicopter.

One year later, after recovery from roughly 100 skull fractures, three major operations, blood clots on the brain, and a struggle with permanent brain damage, Reginald Denny stated at this assailants' trial for attempted murder his belief that the men did not need to go to prison for their crime. And in a touching moment, Denny demonstrated his forgiveness by embracing the mothers of the three defendants.



DISCUSS

Put yourself in each person's shoes.

Corrie: How would you have felt toward your betrayer? How long would you hold these feelings?

Reginald: How would you have felt toward your attackers? Share some of your inner reactions or responses.

CORRIE'S RESPONSE



NEED TO KNOW

MY LIST	CORRIE'S LIST



THE REST OF THE STORY

After the war, the man who betrayed Corrie and her family was arrested and placed on trial for his part in the death of many Dutch people in Nazi concentration camps. He was soon convicted and sentenced to death by hanging.

Corrie learned of this man's fate and sent a letter explaining that she, through Christ' love, had found the ability to forgive him. She also sent a Bible with God's plan of salvation underlined. The day before he was executed, the man wrote to Corrie to explain how her forgiveness had freed him up to accept Christ's forgiveness. The next day, through God's grace and Corrie's manifestation of that grace, he entered heaven.





JUDAS

As one of Jesus' twelve disciples, Judas was appointed to the role of treasurer and embezzled money from the funds in his care. Though his character was known to Jesus (John 6:70), Judas enjoyed fellowship with Jesus for three years. Judas accepted 30 pieces of silver as payment for turning Jesus over to the chief priests, yet Jesus called him friend as Judas betrayed him in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:50). After hearing that Jesus had been condemned to death, Judas was "filled with remorse," attempted to return the silver pieces to the chief priests, and then committed suicide.



PETER

Peter was perhaps the most prominent of Jesus' twelve disciples. He was typically the most outspoken of "the twelve" and often spoke on the behalf of the rest of the apostles. He was counted among Christ's "inner circle" of disciples—along with James and John—and his name appears first in each list of the apostles found in the New Testament. Though he was a staunch defender of Jesus (Matthew 26:35; John 18:10), Peter denied that he knew Christ three times on the evening following his leader's arrest. Peter wept bitterly in shame when he recalled that Jesus had foretold that he would deny Him.



PILATE

Pontius Pilate was the Roman procurator (or governor) of Judea from A.D. 26 to 36. He was very interested in Jesus' claims to deity but bowed to pressure from the multitudes and pronounced Jesus' sentence of death by crucifixion.



CRUCIFIXION

This primarily Roman mode of execution involved nailing or binding a person to a cross. Crucifixion caused death by asphyxiation and was the ultimate act of public humiliation.



Jesus Demonstrates Forgiveness

LUKE 22:47-23:34

List (from these verses) the offenses Jesus forgave.

OTHER EXAMPLES OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Woman caught in adultery.

—John 8

David commits adultery and murder.

—2 Samuel 11 and 12; see also Psalms 32 and 51

Paul's persecution of Christians.

—Acts 8 and 9

Share & discuss.



REFLECT

Can you relate to any of the people on this page? In what ways?

How has Jesus forgiven me?



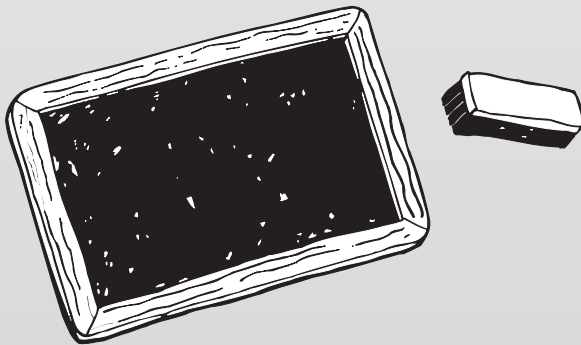
THOUGHT

Do you think you could ever do something too horrible for God to forgive?



LIST

According to Colossians 2:13-15, what has Jesus done for you?



DISCUSS

Think of a situation in your teenage years where you really “blew it,” but a close friend, parent, teacher, etc., forgave you and loved you unconditionally. Describe the situation and how their response made you feel.



COLOSSIANS 2:13-15

When you were spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were not free from the power of your sinful self, God made you alive with Christ, and he forgave all our sins. He canceled the debt, which listed all the rules we failed to follow. He took away that record with its rules and nailed it to the cross. God stripped the spiritual rulers and powers of their authority. With the cross, He won the victory and showed the world that they were powerless.

New Century Version of the Bible
(Dallas: Word Publishing, 1987, 1988, 1991)

CANCELED THE DEBT



Also: “written code” (NIV) or “certificate of debt” (NASB)

This written code, the Law, was like a handwritten “certificate of debt” (NASB). Since people cannot keep the Law, it is like a bill of indebtedness. So people, unable to pay the debt, are criminals. But Jesus took . . . away this charge, this certificate of indebtedness, by His death. It is as if He were nailing it to the cross with Him, showing He paid the debt. He wiped the slate clean.

—John Walvoord and Roy Zuck,
The Bible Knowledge Commentary
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983)

How can I continually experience God’s forgiveness?



“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

CONFESS



Homologeō, lit., to speak the same thing; to assent, accord, agree with; denotes either (a) to confess, declare, admit, or (b) to confess by way of admitting oneself guilty of what one is accused of, the result of inward conviction.

—W.E. Vine, *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1952, 1980)



DISCUSS

What does it mean to confess?

REPENTANCE



Metanoia can be said to denote that inward change of mind, affections, convictions, and commitment, rooted in the fear of God and sorrow for offenses committed against Him, which, when accompanied by faith in Jesus Christ, results in an outward turning from sin to God and His service in all of life.

—Karl G. Kromminga, *Baker's Dictionary of Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1960)



APPLICATIONS

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalms 32, 51, 103

Read the stories on page 2 under “Other Examples.”

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.