

# Jesus and Forgiveness

Read the passage listed under “Forgiveness and Salvation,” and then read your assigned passages from Matthew, Mark and John, or Luke, and answer the questions as your teacher has directed, either in writing (on a separate sheet of paper) or in a group or class discussion.

## Forgiveness and Salvation

Luke 1:76–77. What does Zechariah say about the nature of people’s salvation as he talks about Jesus and Zechariah’s son, John the Baptist? What are some of the adjectives that Zechariah uses in his prophecy to talk about sin and forgiveness?

## The Gospel Writers and Forgiveness

### Group 1: Matthew

- **Matthew 6:9–15.** What is the relationship between human forgiveness and God’s forgiveness?
- **Matthew 9:2–8.** What is the relationship in this story between physical healing and spiritual healing?
- **Matthew 18:21–22.** How often should Jesus’ disciples forgive?
- **Matthew 18:23–35.** How does God expect us to forgive?

### Group 2: Mark and John

- **Mark 1:1–8.** What drew people to John the Baptist? Why is the confession of sins attractive to people?
- **Mark 2:1–12.** How does the healed person react to his physical and personal healing?
- **Mark 11:25.** How should forgiveness be part of a person’s prayer life?
- **John 20:19–23.** Where do you see Jesus’ charge to the Apostles being lived out today?

### Group 3: Luke

- **Luke 5:17–26.** Who has the authority to forgive sins on earth? Is that still who forgives our sins on earth? If so, how?
- **Luke 6:37.** As Jesus encourages forgiveness in this passage, what does he discourage? Is there a relationship between forgiveness and those actions?
- **Luke 17:1–4.** What is the connection here between repentance and forgiveness?
- **Luke 24:36–49.** What does Jesus want proclaimed after he ascends to his Father?

(This handout is adapted from *Catechetical Sessions on Liturgy and the Sacraments*, by Therese Brown, Laurie Delgatto, Mary Shrader, and Christine Schmertz Navarro, in the Total Catechesis series [Winona, MN: Saint Mary’s Press, 2004]. Copyright © 2004 by Saint Mary’s Press. All rights reserved.)

