

Matrix for Teachings on Forgiveness Answer Key

Part 1: Find and Summarize

Teaching	Summary
Jesus on the cross	Jesus forgives his executioners while he is dying on the cross. We should forgive those who hurt us, not seek revenge.
The prophet Jeremiah	Even after Israel's many sins, Jeremiah tells of a day when the people would know God's love and mercy. He prophesies about a day when God's Law will be written on our hearts and all people will know God and God's forgiveness.
Jesus at dinner with the Pharisee and the sinner	Jesus tells the Pharisee that those who have been forgiven much, love much. When we seek forgiveness from God for our sins, we experience an increase in love for God, for ourselves, and for others.
Peter on Pentecost	Peter tells the crowds to repent and be baptized; their sins will be forgiven, and they will receive the Holy Spirit. When we repent and admit we have sinned, we receive forgiveness, grace, and healing from God.
The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant	A servant whose master forgave him a debt does not extend the same forgiveness to a fellow servant. We are called to extend the same loving mercy we have received from God for our sins to those who have offended us.
The Lord's Prayer	In the Lord's Prayer we pray, "And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us." God's forgiveness and mercy cannot take effect in us if we hold onto past hurts and offenses and refuse to forgive others.
The Pope Francis Homily	We often feel a certain calmness when we give into temptation because we have justified our sin. However, once we recognize our sin, we must ask God for forgiveness and ask how we fell into the sin. How did we justify this sin and allow it to infect our soul?

Part 2: The Process of Reconciliation

Word	Meaning
contrition	Contrition is the act of recognizing our sin, turning away from it, and making a commitment not to sin again. With a contrite and repentant heart, we can turn to God and seek forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. We can also begin to reach out to anyone we have offended and start to repair the relationship.
absolution	By saying the words of absolution, the priest pardons the sins of the person confessing, in the name of God and the Church. The person's relationship with God and with the Church is healed, and they are given grace to follow God more faithfully.
penance	Penance is both an attitude of the heart, regretting past sins and committing to change in the future, and a concrete action, meant to repair relationships caused by our sin. The penance could be something personal and spiritual, such as prayer or fasting, and this would help reconcile us with God and with ourselves. An act of penance could also be apologizing to the person we hurt and trying to repair the harm we did, and this would help reconcile us with that person.

