

# Faith Construction: Confession & Forgiveness

## Week 11

### What Are You Talking About?

It is not unusual for us to have the mistaken notion that if we can hide our mistakes and shortcomings, people will be more apt to like and respect us. That might work sometimes with people with whom we will never be close. However, if you think about the people with whom you are close to, they are also people with whom you have shared the "bad" or "negative" things about yourself. At least they are people who you feel know these things.

The real reason this is true is that you feel these are people who truly care about you. They are people with whom it hasn't destroyed your relationship by knowing the "bad" things about you. What a great thing it is to have people in your life with whom you can be honest and open about yourself.

This is the way God would have it be with you. He wants you to know that He cares for you so that you will feel free to be open with Him. He shows that to us in Jesus. It is never "if you" then I will forgive you. He comes to you in Jesus before you "confess." In Jesus, He would free you to not have to hide a thing.

Some times people say, "if you believe in Jesus, God will forgive." That is the wrong order of things. Rather, it is "God has forgiven you in Jesus. You can be honest with Him."

You will never be close to anyone if there is no forgiveness. There will always be an uneasiness if you feel someone is a person with whom you cannot be honest. In Jesus, God assures you, "I love you" "I forgive you" "Let there be nothing that keeps us apart"



**Goal:** To see God as someone we can be honest with.

### Web Extra

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkkzdDy95rA>

This video is from the movie "The Mission". It is a great example of mercy and forgiveness.

# Lifeguard Group

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**Try This!**

<http://www.creativebibles.tudy.com/Bible-object-lesson-sin.html>

**Be Useful Gal. 5:13**  
Consider ways that trust can be strengthened in the relationship you have with your friends.

**My Yeah God!**

**My Shout Out!**

### That's A Good Question!

**From Rock Worship**

How is dealing with sins (those you have committed and those against you) like picking up sticks? God wants us to be connected to Him and wants nothing in the way of that. Forgiveness is essential to building close relationships. How is this evident in Moose and Isaac's relationship?

**THE LUTHERAN HANDBOOK**

Read and discuss 217-221

**MY FAITH BOOK**

Read and discuss pages 116-117

**FROM THE HOLY BIBLE**

The Lost Son Parable Luke 15:11-32  
II Corinthians 5:21

**Key Verse**

And yet, I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you. (Isaiah 43:25 TEV)