

## Asking for forgiveness

No one is perfect; that's why we have disagreements or we upset someone.

After a blow-up (it doesn't matter whose fault it was or who started it), we need to put things right. That takes courage. The good thing is that saying sorry or forgiving someone helps to make our relationships stronger and builds character.

The Lord cannot bless us the way He wants to, and we cannot grow closer to Him, until we decide to make things right (see Matthew 5:23-24).

If you are angry, first pray that the Lord will give you peace in your heart. Also ask that He will give you the love and courage to go to the person you hurt and sort things out.

- **Say sorry.** If you said something unkind or did something mean, tell the other person that you are sorry. If it is something the other person did, tell them that you forgive them.
- If things have been going wrong for a while and you don't even know where to start, simply say that you are sorry about the bad feelings that have come between you. Tell the person that you want to forget the past and be friends.
- If you lost or broke something, try to **replace** it or **fix** it. Or you could offer to make up for it in some way. If something messed, help clean it up.
- A small **gift**, or even a homemade card, is a special way to show that you are sorry when it's hard to get the words out. Even a hug can make it a bit easier to say the words "I'm sorry".