

# Fathers' Studies: Personal Growth

"...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

LESSON 10 OF 52

## CONFESSION

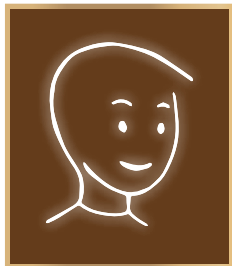
**LESSON AIM:** To understand the importance of confessing (telling) a sin or wrong-doing.

### KEY VERSE:

1. **1 JOHN 1:9** This verse has the promises that the one who \_\_\_\_\_ his faults or sins to God will be forgiven.
2. **LUKE 15:21** The prodigal son confessed to his father by saying, "Father, I have \_\_\_\_\_ against you."
3. **JAMES 5:16** James teaches that when a man prays for healing he should also \_\_\_\_\_ his sins.
4. **ACTS 19:18** Many who believed in Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the wrong things they were doing.
5. **PROVERBS 28:13** It will not go well for the man who \_\_\_\_\_ his sin. It is much better to \_\_\_\_\_ your sins and \_\_\_\_\_ them.

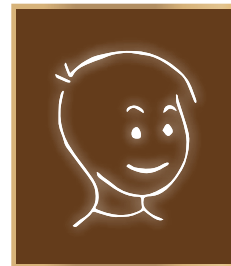
### PERSONAL NOTES:

## For You To Do



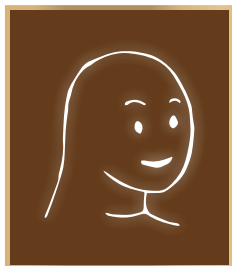
### By Yourself

Ask God to show you if there is anyone whom you have treated wrongly and have not cleared it with that person. Then go to that person and tell him or her how you have acted wrongly and say how sorry you are.



### With Your Children

Read them the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32). Explain to them how the son was very sorry for doing wrong and how he confessed it to his father.



### With Your Wife

Talk with her about any bad feelings that may be between you. Where you have been wrong, be quick to confess your wrong.

It would be nice if after marriage each couple “lived happily ever after”. But it does not seem to work that way. Conflicts between a husband and wife are part of life. Conflicts, if not handled properly, can cause hurt feelings. These feelings can turn to anger. If anger remains, a person becomes bitter and holds a grudge. He wants to make the other person feel just as badly as he felt. This makes the problem worse. These reactions are not the way God teaches us to live. Instead, He says to confess your hurt feelings and bitterness.

**BAD RELATIONSHIPS ARE WRONG.** In Matthew 5:21-24 Jesus says that anger toward another person is a bad thing. Someone who stays angry at his fellow man is guilty before God. Jesus even says that someone who thinks or says bad things toward his brother is wrong. Anyone who calls his brother a fool is in danger of going to hell.

**MAKING THINGS RIGHT.** Jesus is very plain in these verses in Matthew 5. He says that if a man is on his way to a church meeting to offer his gift to God, he should check himself to see if there is anything which has not been settled between himself and a brother.

If there are any unsettled matters which cause bad relationships, then God will not accept that man’s gift. That man must first go and make right what is wrong between the two. Then he can come back and God will accept his gift.

In this teaching, Jesus is not pointing out which of the two men is to blame. Jesus is saying, “If you know that there is something wrong between you and your brother, something to cause a bad relationship, then you must go and talk with that brother.” Who is at fault is not as important as getting the problem cleared up. You may be at fault, your brother may be at fault, or you may both share some of the blame. The important thing is that you talk about the problem together and get it settled. Then God will be glorified and other Christians will be encouraged.

**CONFESSING BRINGS A BLESSING.** In James 5:16, Christians are encouraged to confess their faults to one another. God promises a blessing to those who confess. Christians who confess to one another and pray for each other will be healed of both physical and emotional sicknesses. God also promises that confession and prayer by a man right with God will have much power with Him.

**MATTHEW 18:15-17**

**I TOLD MY SIN TO YOU. I DID NOT HIDE MY WRONG-DOING...AND YOU FORGAVE THE GUILT OF MY SIN. (PSALM 32:5)**

**Jesus taught to confess bitterness and hurt feelings.**

**It is more important to make things right than to find out who was most wrong.**

**Believers who confess wrongs will be blessed by God.**

## WINDOW TO LIFE

One evening at supper Margaret served a roast of meat. Howard began to complain that the meat wasn’t cooked enough. Margaret became angry and they started yelling at each other. Margaret finally ran to the bedroom in tears. After Howard sat alone for awhile, he realized that he had been wrong and needed to tell his wife. He also knew that the real wrong was his attitude toward Margaret. Howard had often been ungrateful toward Margaret and compared her with his mother. He needed to confess ungrateful and judgmental attitudes. When Howard told his wife how sorry he was for those two attitudes, she forgave him! Then they began to get along much better.

