

# I Don't Think God Will Ever Forgive Me

1. Ask a member of your group to read the following scenario aloud.

Your friend Jose has been acting noticeably discouraged lately. Every time you ask him what is wrong, he responds by saying that he doesn't want to talk about it. A few weeks later, he finally tells you that the reason he has been so sad lately is because he has been feeling guilty for some of the sins he has committed in his life.

Jose tells you that he has tried to repent in the past but finds himself struggling with the same sins over and over. He tells you that he has given up on repenting and has begun committing even worse sins. Jose tells you, "The sins I have committed are so bad that God would never want me back. I don't think He would ever forgive me."

2. Discuss the following questions with your group:
  - a. What are some ways that you could invite Jose to act in faith in order to overcome his guilt?
  - b. What do you know about Heavenly Father's plan of salvation that you could share with Jose to help him view his situation differently?
3. Study the following quotes as a group. Look for statements that you think could help Jose.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:



"However late you think you are, however many chances you think you have missed, however many mistakes you feel you have made or talents you think you don't have, or however far from home and family and God you feel you have traveled, I testify that you have *not* traveled beyond the reach of divine love. It is not possible for you to sink lower than the infinite light of Christ's Atonement shines" (Jeffrey R. Holland, "The Laborers in the Vineyard," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 33).

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:



"Sometimes in our repentance, in our daily efforts to become more Christlike, we find ourselves repeatedly struggling with the same difficulties. As if we were climbing a tree-covered mountain, at times we don't see our progress until we get closer to the top and look back from the high ridges. Don't be discouraged. If you are striving and working to repent, you are in the process of repenting" (Neil L. Andersen, "Repent . . . That I May Heal You," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 41).

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, then of the First Presidency:



"We have all seen a toddler learn to walk. He takes a small step and totters. He falls. Do we scold such an attempt? Of course not. What father would punish a toddler for stumbling? We encourage, we applaud, and we praise because with every small step, the child is becoming more like his parents.

“Now . . . compared to the perfection of God, we mortals are scarcely more than awkward, faltering toddlers. But our loving Heavenly Father wants us to become more like Him, and . . . that should be our eternal goal too. God understands that we get there not in an instant but by taking one step at a time”  
(Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “Four Titles,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2013, 58).

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:



“God cares a lot more about who we are and who we are becoming than about who we once were. He cares that we keep on trying” (Dale G. Renlund, “Latter-day Saints Keep on Trying,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2015, 56).

4. What words or phrases from these quotes could help Jose?
5. Can you think of any other divinely appointed sources, such as scriptures or conference talks, that could also help Jose?

