



**NATIVE FIRST COMMUNION SERIES**

# **FORGIVING**

**WORKBOOK**





## **NATIVE FIRST COMMUNION SERIES**

A series of 9 children's workbooks with family letters, including a family and teaching guide:

1. BELONGING
2. CELEBRATING
3. FORGIVING
4. HEARING
5. LOVING
6. OUR CREATOR'S GIVE-AWAY
7. NEW LIFE
8. SHARING
9. SERVING
10. FAMILY & TEACHING GUIDE

- Created in the early 1970s by Fr. Gilbert F. Hemauer, OFM Cap. and Religion Research Center Staff at St. Labre Indian School, Ashland, MT 59003
- Piloted in various native communities until the Summer of 1987
- Revised by the Tekakwitha Conference Staff and Native Catechists in 1987
- Illustrated by Gus Antone



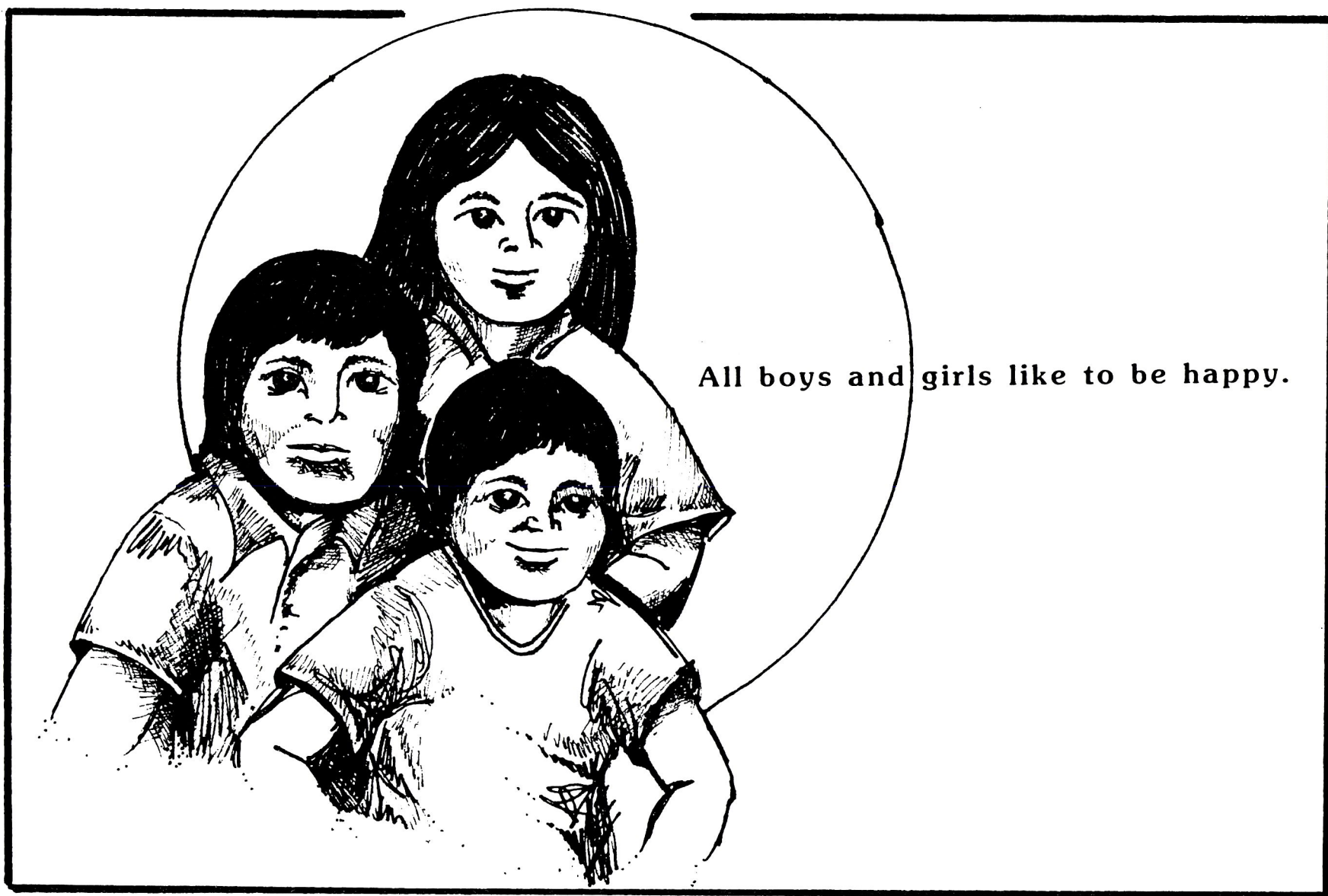
# FORGIVING

Through the teaching on FORGIVING, the children can learn about peace, harmony, and reconciliation. Sometimes things go wrong within oneself, or between oneself and God, or between oneself and other people; and broken relationships are in need of healing.

The Creator has such great respect for the dignity of his people that he has given us the freedom to choose how to live. We may walk the path of truth and goodness or we may turn off on the wrong way, sometimes for a little detour, sometimes for a lengthy trip. But however far we wander off, God is like a loving shepherd who never stops searching for us to return. Even though it may seem too good to be true, God never stops loving us and never refuses to forgive us when we ask. The special

channel of God's mercy is the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is sometimes called Confession. The church's minister is there to assure us in God's name that we are restored to friendship with God and the community of the church.

Small children learn about God's forgiveness through their human experiences. Children may do something bad and get into trouble. Such behavior should not continue. But the family can also let the children know that they are still loved. Feeling loved and forgiven at home as the years go by helps children believe in God's love and mercy in the sacraments and in the church community, especially when we give and receive the sign of peace before receiving Communion.





**Draw some happy times.**

**Boys and girls are happy when they have PEACE.**

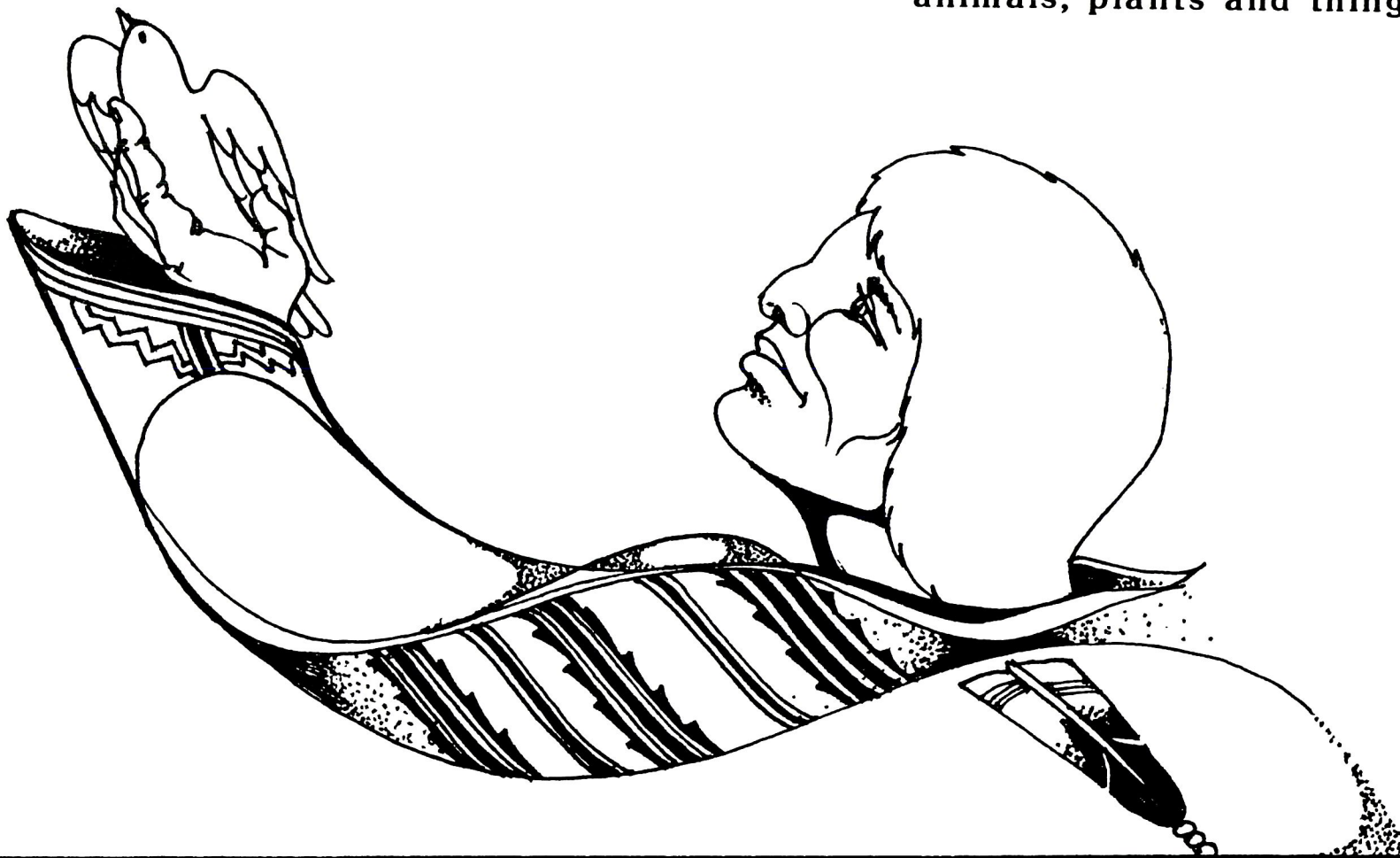
**Draw a peaceful scene.**



Peace is feeling happy when people  
love you and you love other people.



We are happy and have peace when we respect and care for all people,  
animals, plants and things.





Families have their own ways of working together,  
being happy, and living in peace.



## WAYS THAT HELP ME LIVE MY LIFE

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

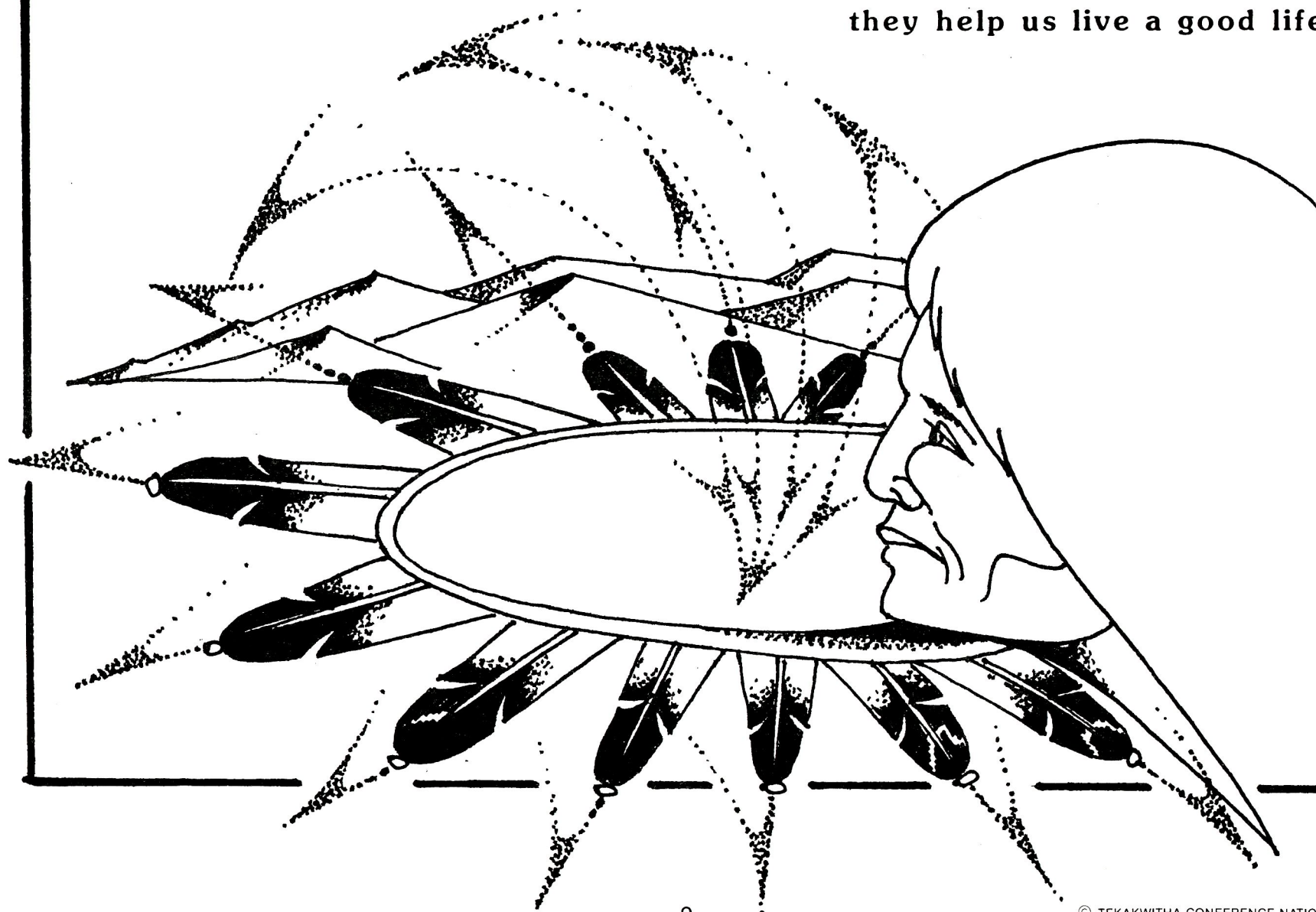
5. \_\_\_\_\_

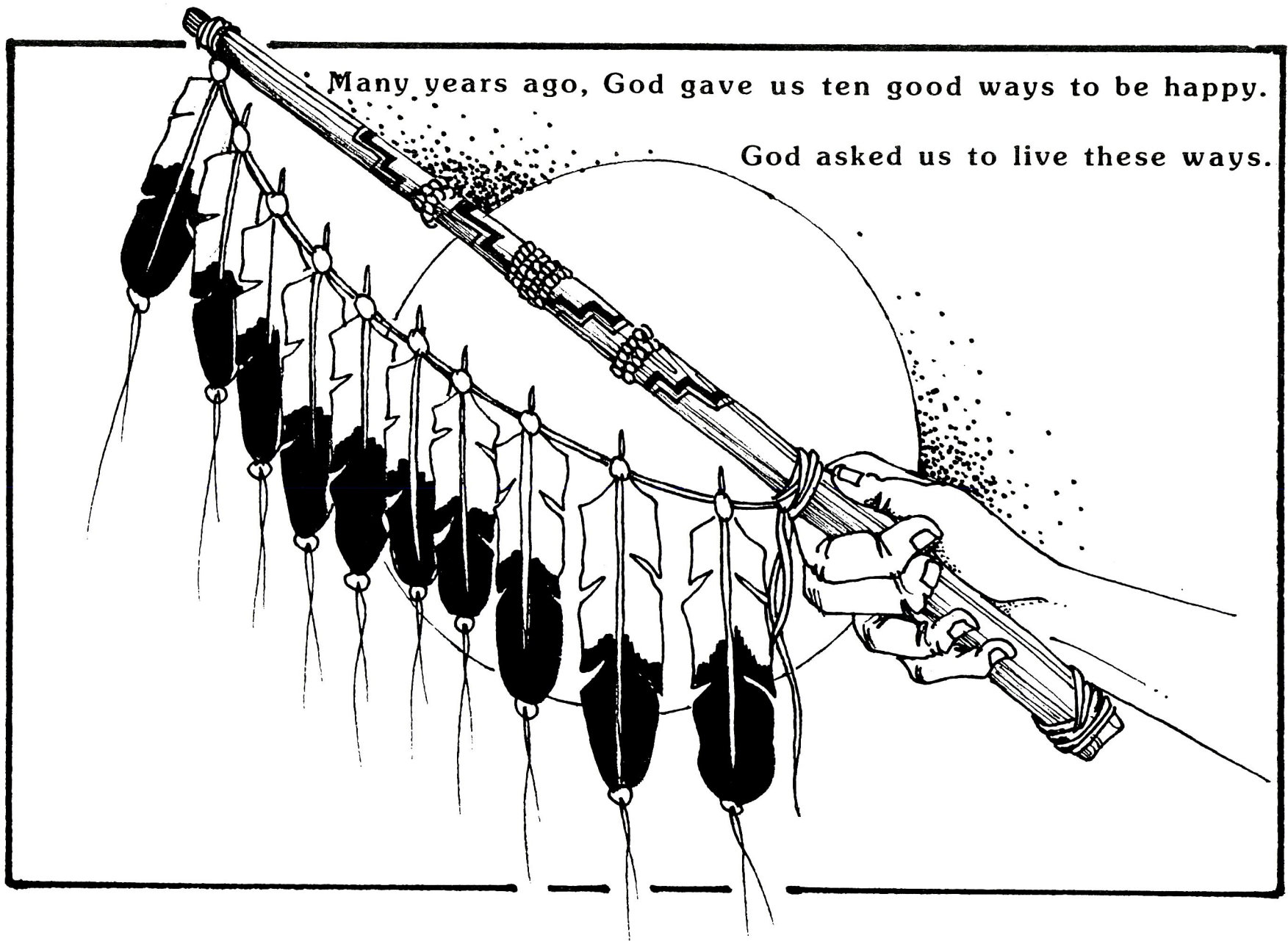
6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_



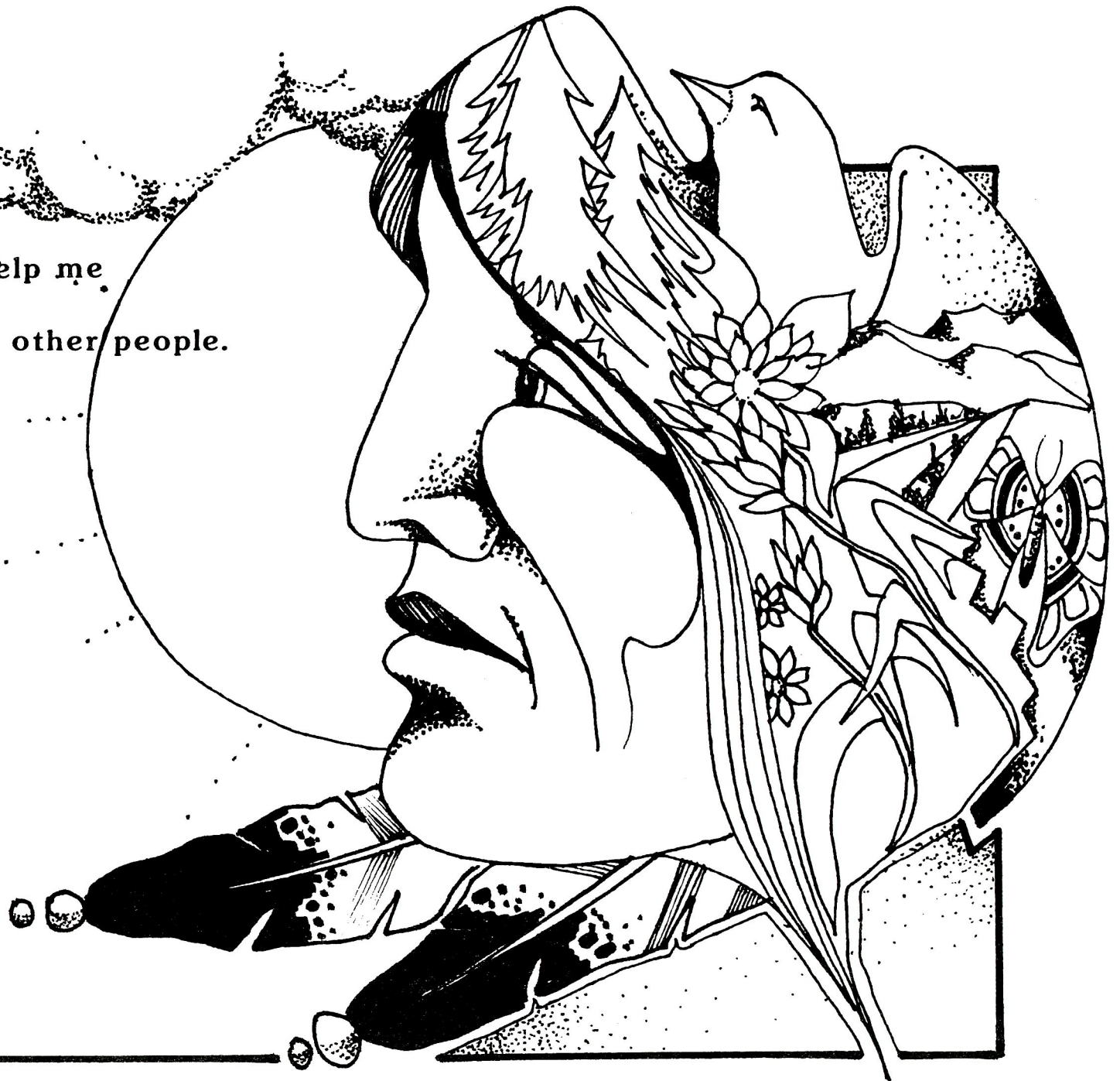
We respect the ways of our Creator, our elders, and our families because  
they help us live a good life.





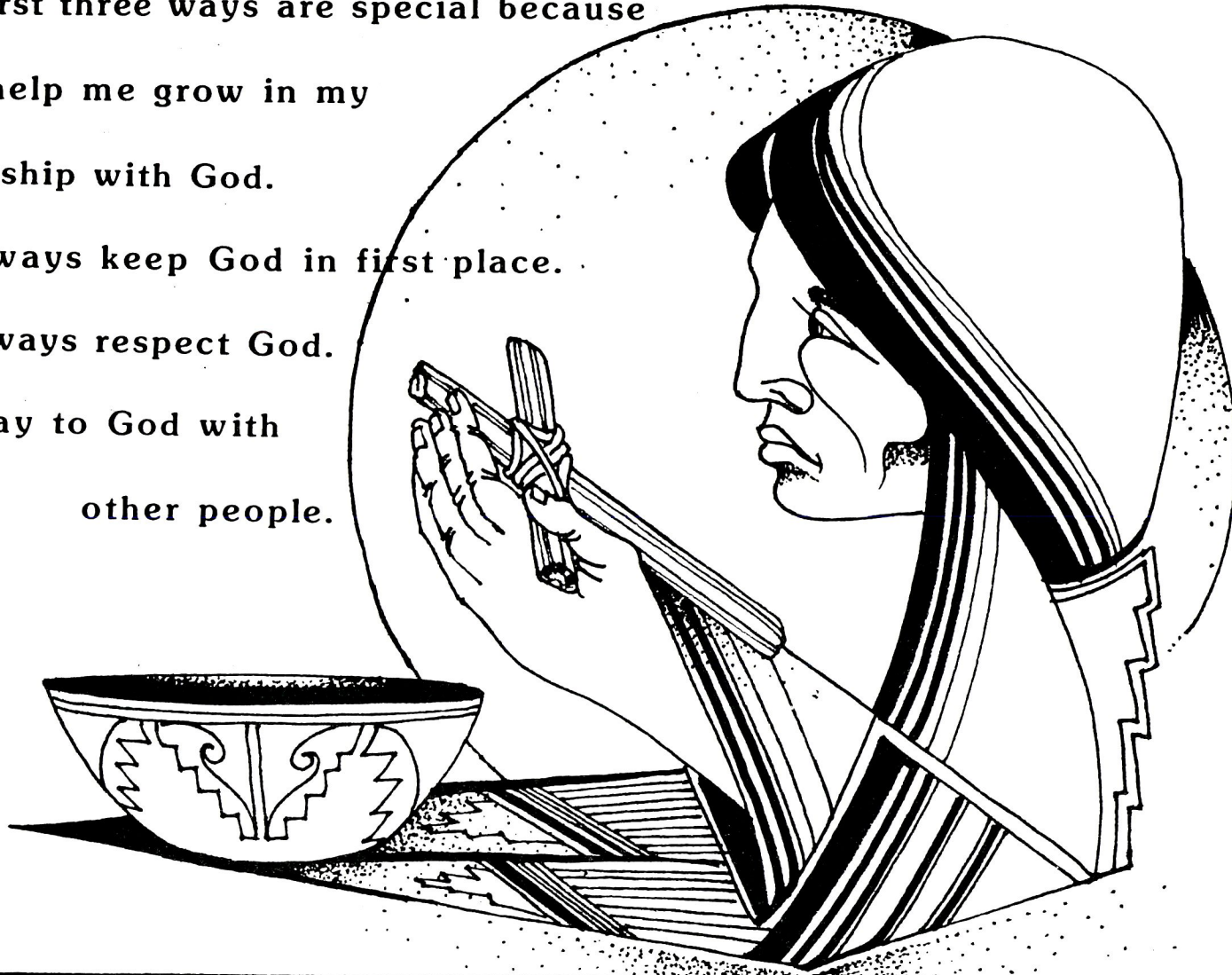


All of these ways help me  
respect God and other people.



The first three ways are special because  
they help me grow in my  
friendship with God.

1. Always keep God in first place.
2. Always respect God.
3. Pray to God with  
other people.



The other ways help me grow in my friendship with other people.

They are

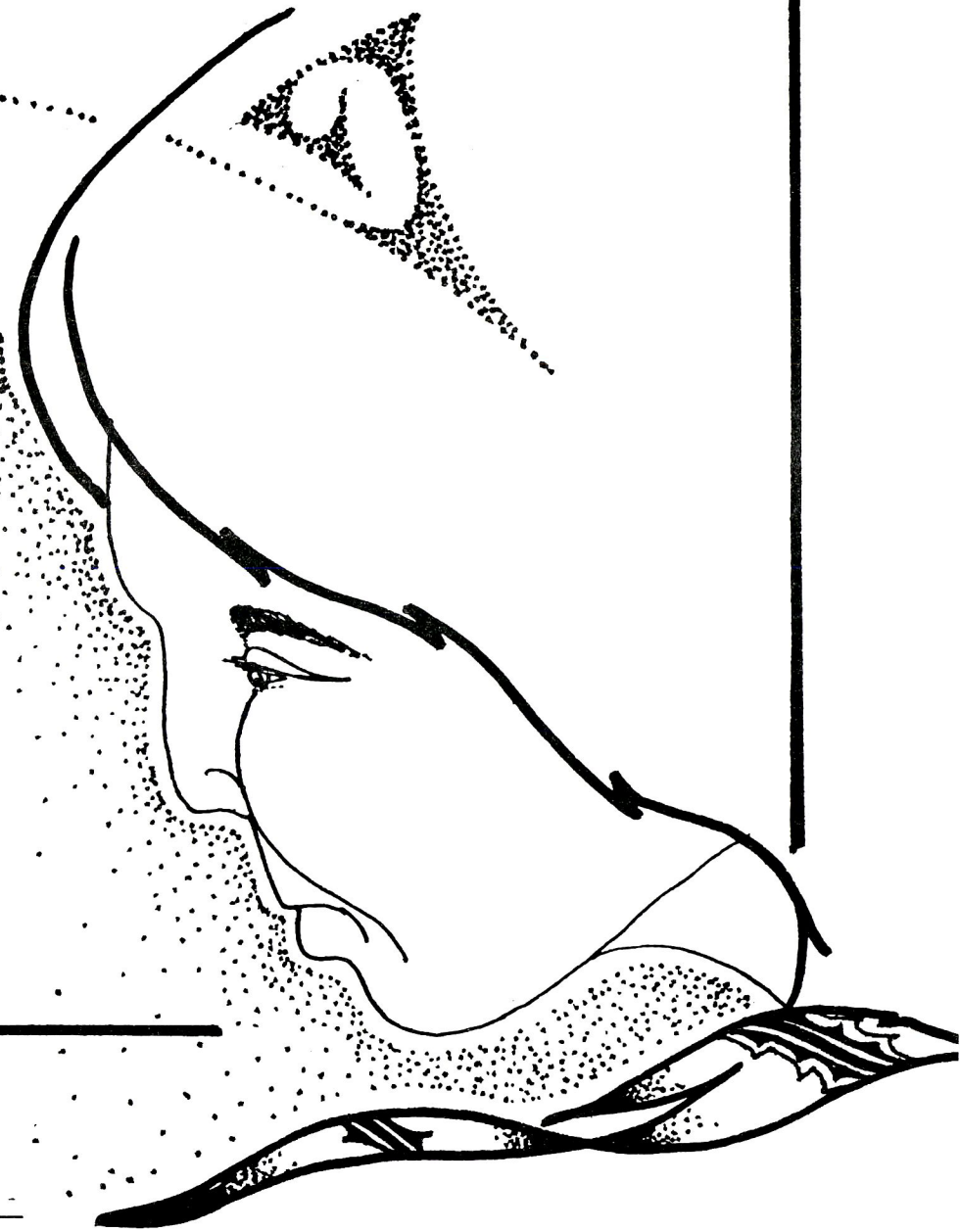
4. Respect my family.
5. Respect all living things.
6. Do everything with love.
7. Respect other people's things.
8. Say what is good and true.
9. Have a good heart for everybody.
10. Be happy with other people and  
rejoice in the good of others.



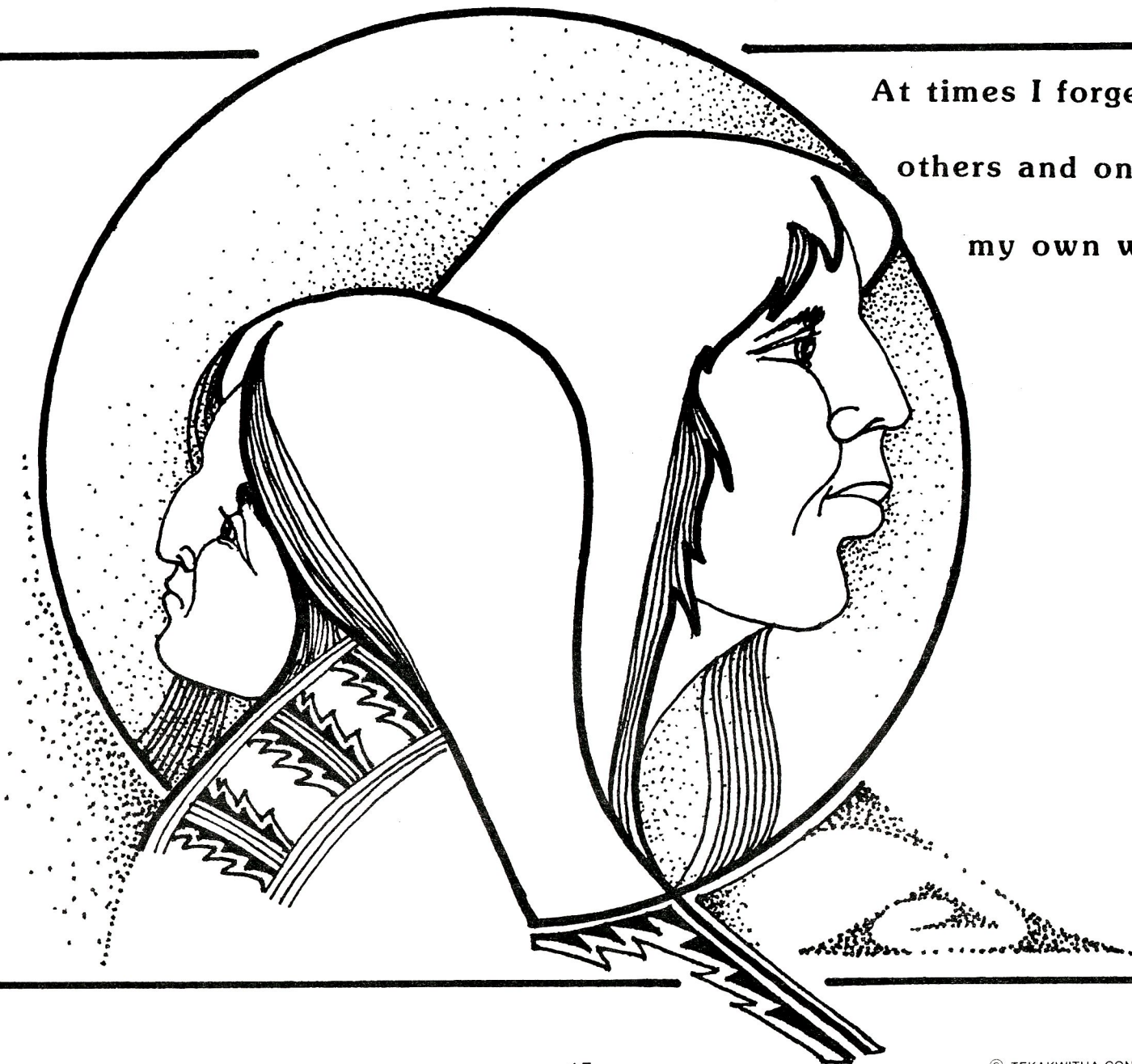
It isn't easy to live these ways all the time.

It is not living a good way if I

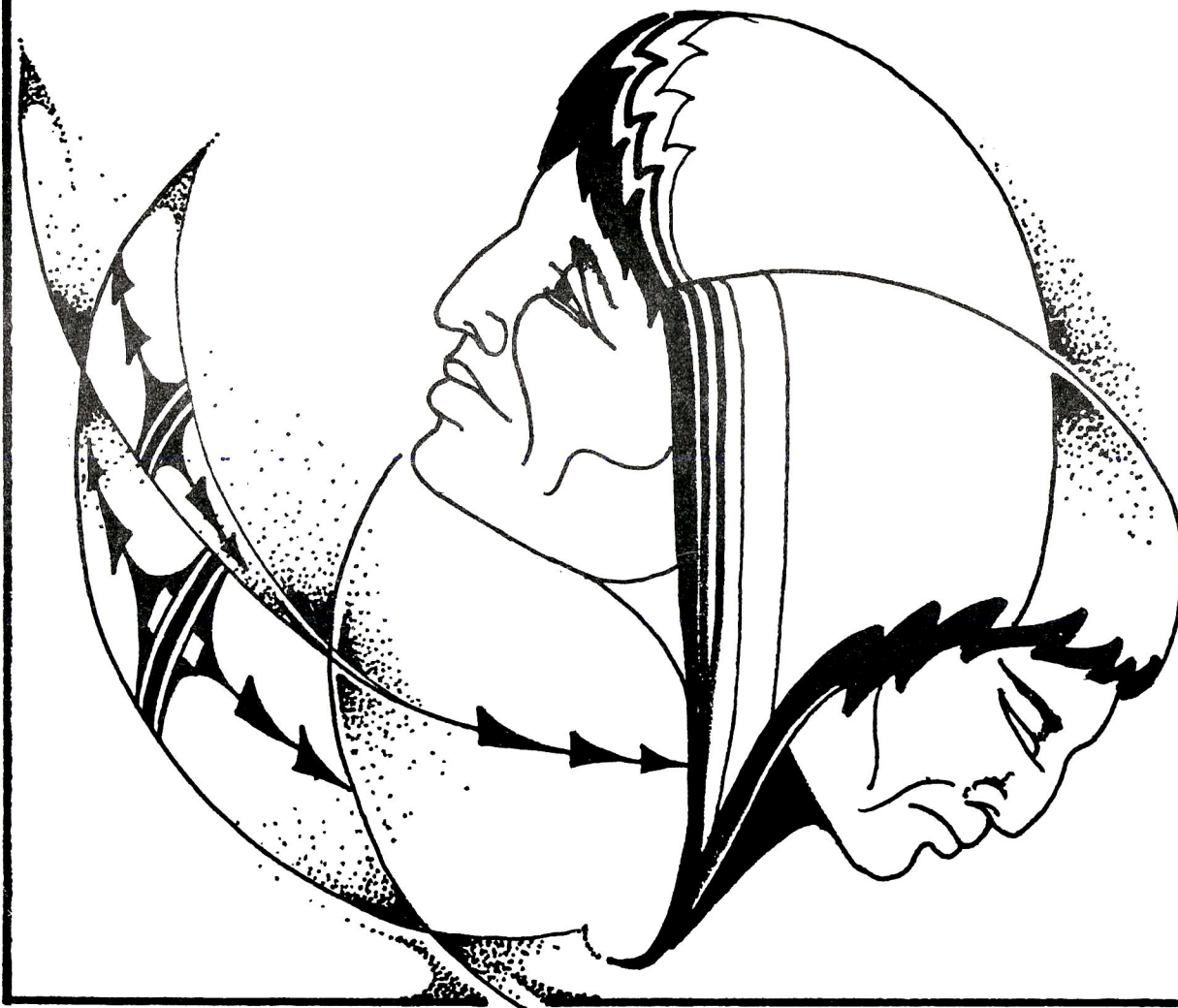
- fight with my friends.
- take something that belongs  
to someone else.
- tell something that is not true.
- do not help.
- do not share.



At times I forget about  
others and only want  
my own way.

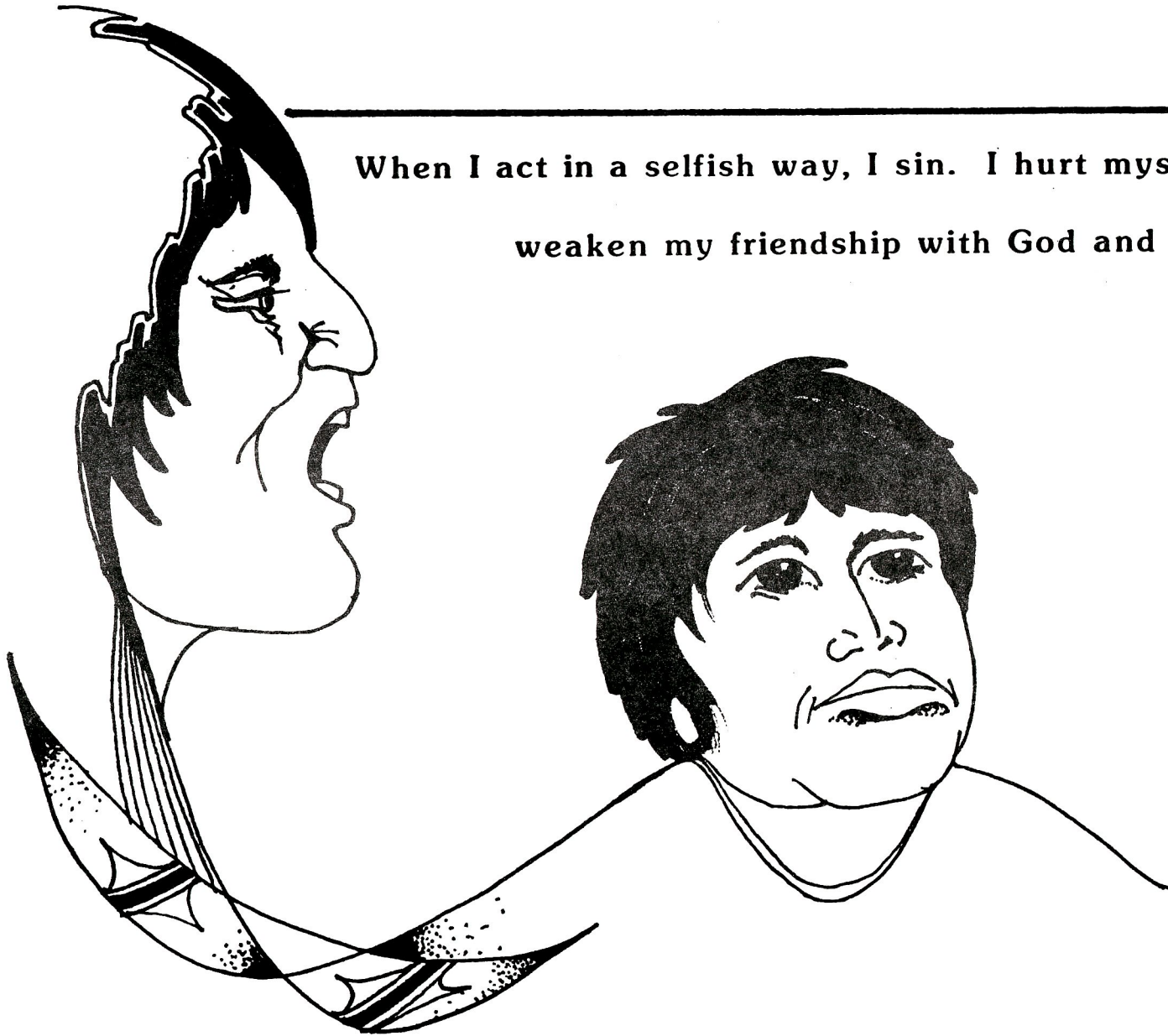


When I act this way, I am **SELFISH**.





When I act in a selfish way, I sin. I hurt myself and  
weaken my friendship with God and others.



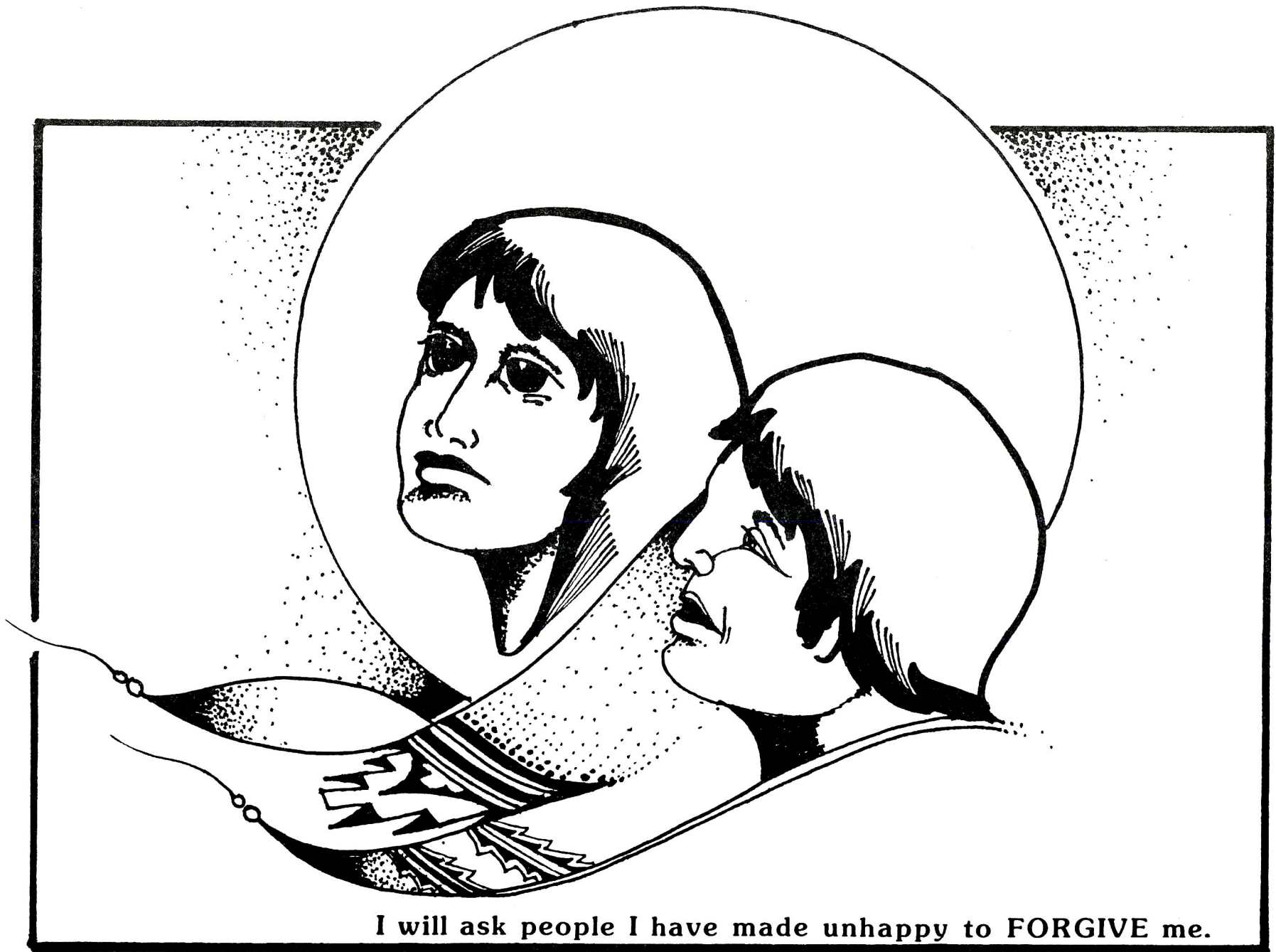
**WHEN I DO NOT LIVE A GOOD WAY, I AM UNHAPPY.**

**DRAW SOME UNHAPPY TIMES.**

To be happy, I need to forgive  
myself and learn from my mistakes.







**I will ask people I have made unhappy to FORGIVE me.**

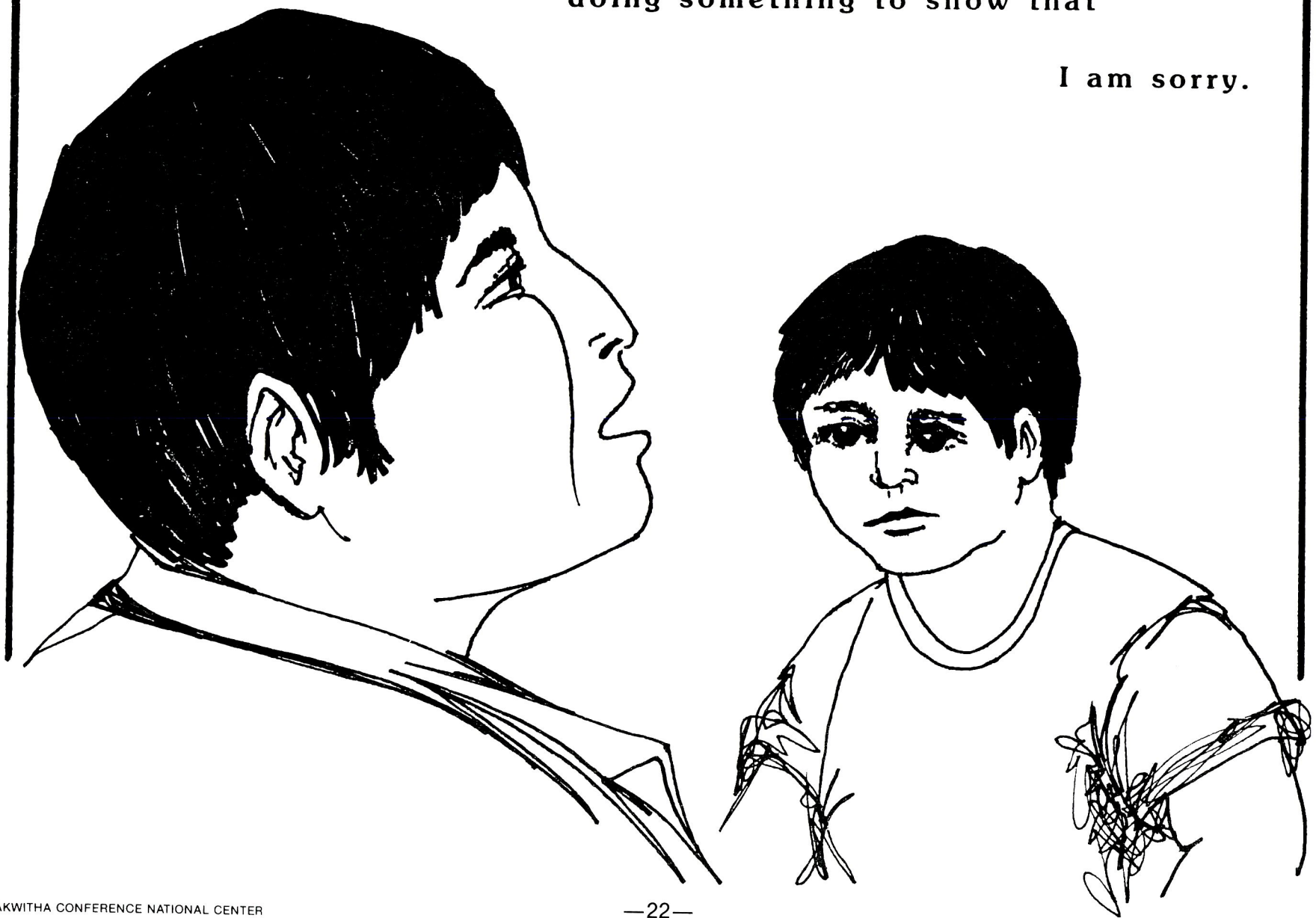


FORGIVENESS GOES TWO WAYS.

I will ask for forgiveness by saying, "I am sorry," or by

doing something to show that

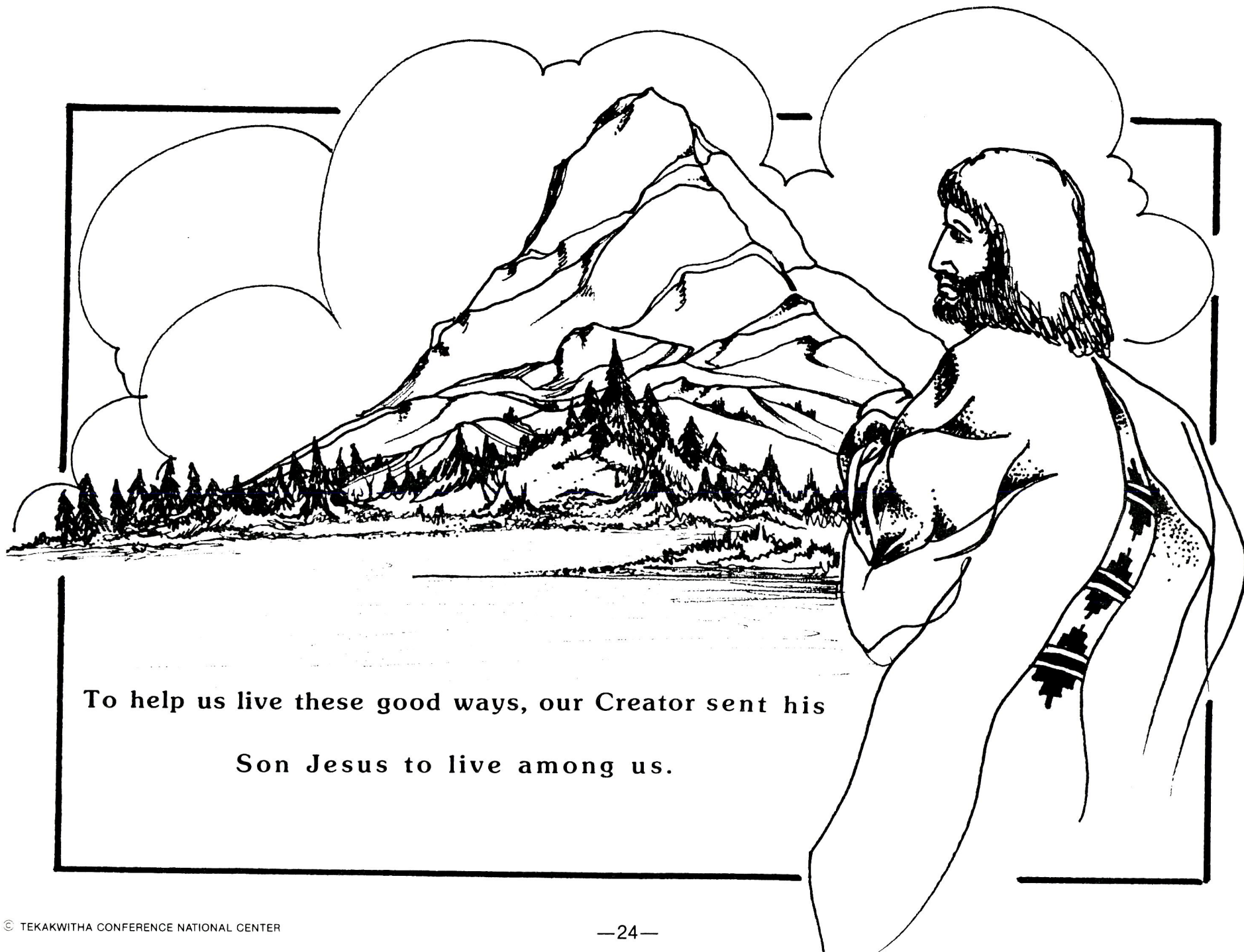
I am sorry.



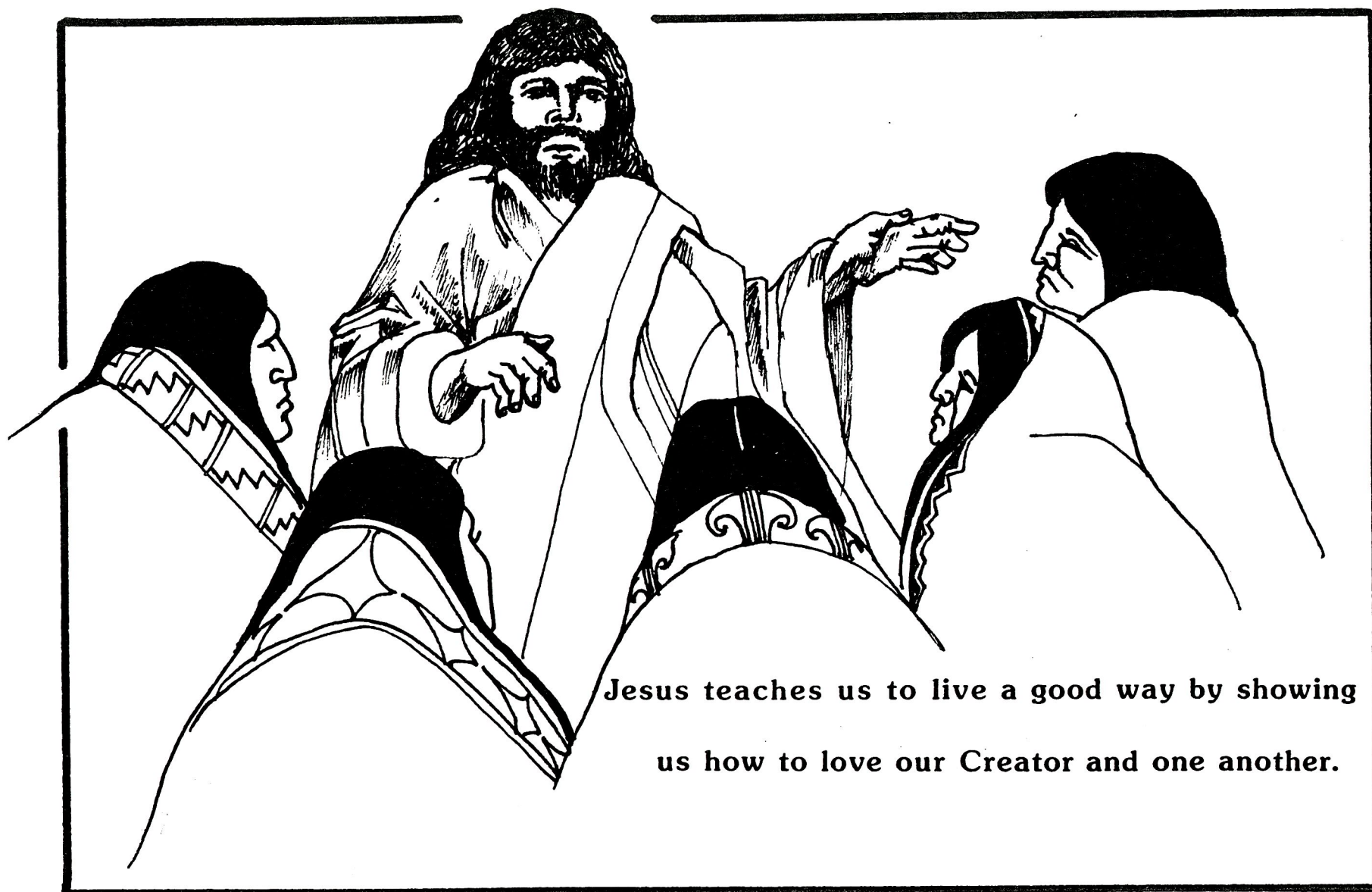




When people know I am sorry and forgive me, we are happy again.



To help us live these good ways, our Creator sent his  
Son Jesus to live among us.



**Jesus teaches us to live a good way by showing  
us how to love our Creator and one another.**



Jesus teaches us

- to love and forgive each other.
- to be friends.
- to share.
- to be happy together.
- to help each other to walk together on  
the road of life.
- to work and play together.

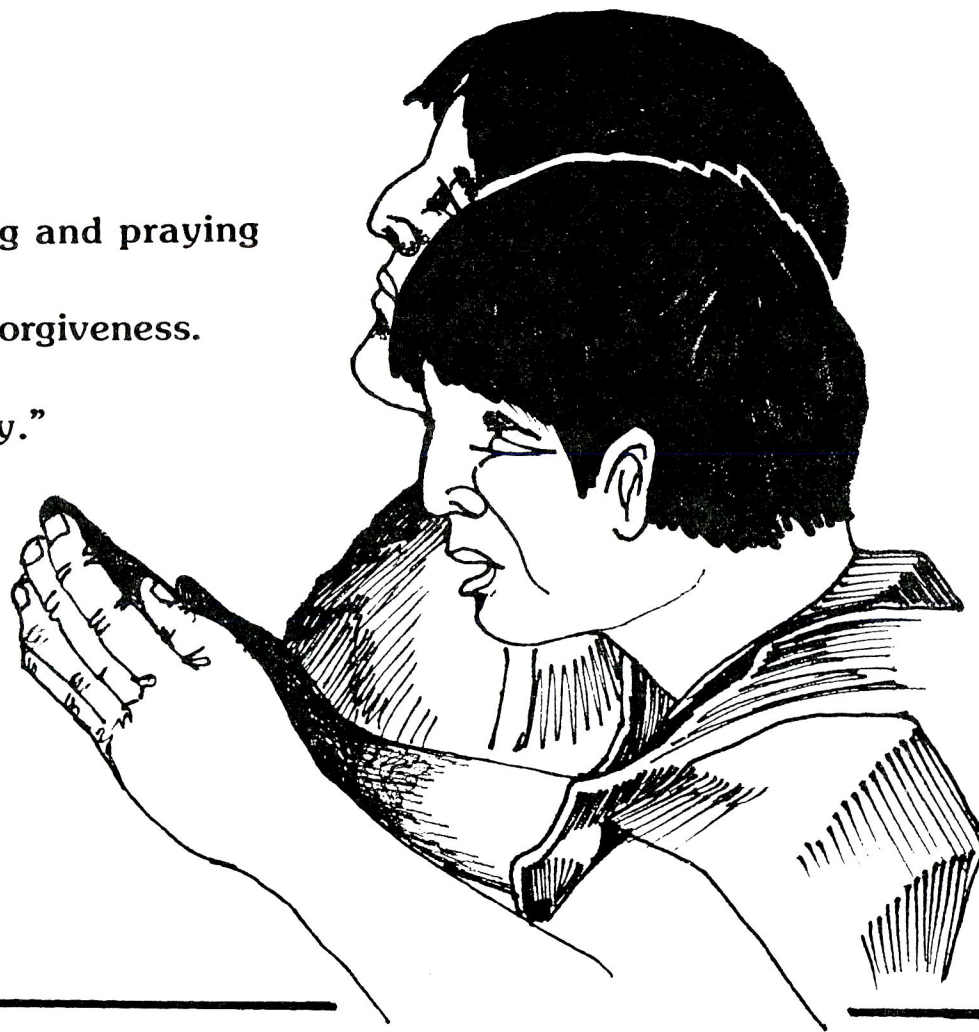


Jesus said, "My Father and I  
always forgive those who ask."



When God's family is celebrating and praying  
together at Mass, everyone asks forgiveness.

We say, "Lord, have mercy."



We share forgiveness with other people when we give each other the sign of peace

and say, "Peace be with you!"



In God's family, when we do not live the way of love that Jesus gave us,  
we have another way to ask forgiveness. This way is called the Sacrament of  
Reconciliation.





## **NOTES:**

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