

# THE MEANS OF GRACE

## THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS

### SKIT

**Characters:** Jordan, Meagan

**Setting:** Two students are talking about forgiveness.

**Jordan:** So how are you feeling?

**Meagan:** Pretty well, I guess.

**Jordan:** You don't look so good.

**Meagan:** I guess I still feel lousy. Thanks for talking with me the other day.

**Jordan:** Sure. No problem. That's what friends do.

**Meagan:** I guess I'm still feeling guilty.

**Jordan:** I know you apologized, and I know you asked God for forgiveness too.

**Meagan:** Then why do I still feel bad?

**Jordan:** You went to church last Sunday, didn't you?

**Meagan:** Yeah.

**Jordan:** If you've been asking God to forgive you all week, didn't you actually hear the words "You are forgiven"?

**Meagan:** Well, yeah, I guess the pastor said those words.

**Jordan:** There you go. You're forgiven. I remember a devotion I read that says our sins are removed from us as far as the east is from the west. Gone! Jesus forgives you.

**Meagan:** Yeah, but how do I know I'm really forgiven?

**Jordan:** Because Jesus says you are. Remember, you heard those words in church.

**Meagan:** I think what would make me feel better would be if it were actually Jesus standing up there saying, "Meagan, I forgive you."

**Jordan:** I know our pastor doesn't look like Jesus, but remember, when he says the words "I forgive you," it's just as if Jesus were saying those words. It's just like Jesus standing up there saying, "Meagan, I forgive you." And He does!

**Meagan:** I remember my little nephew used to think Pastor was Jesus. Every time he left church, he would say, "Hi, Jesus!"

**Jordan:** I think a lot of little kids get that one confused. Just pretend you're a little kid again, and when you hear those words "I forgive you all your sins," see Jesus up there saying it to you.

**Meagan:** I guess I could sit next to my nephew.

**Jordan:** Sure. But if I see you getting a children's bulletin, I might get a little worried. Say, here's something to think about. After asking God to forgive you for something you've done, ask Him to give you the strength to forgive yourself. Knowing Jesus has forgiven you is the first and most important step.

**Meagan:** You're right. Thanks for listening again.

**Jordan:** No problem.

### DISCUSSION

**Absolution assures believers that all sins, including those that especially trouble and burden us, have been forgiven by Jesus. Why do we hear the pastor speak these words as part of the worship service?** Jesus commissioned pastors to absolve sinners in His name.

**Why do Christians need to assure one another repeatedly of Christ's forgiveness?** The forgiveness Jesus won for us is the foundation upon which our relationship with God and with others is built. We need this assurance especially when we are troubled because of our sins.