

Confession

Year B, Pentecost 20-16

By Beth Barnett

This is a Confession prayer for use with across Pentecost 20-26 readings from Hebrews.

This resource can be used in Early Word or Bible Reading times.

You will need:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words of confession on screen or printed and distributed among your gathering.• Leader• (Optional) 14 cardboard tear-outs/cut-outs with 'Because we're human' written on one side, and a different line from the confession prayer on the other side.• (Optional) gold and hessian 'Holiness' and 'Humanness' curtains• Celebration food (eg sausage sizzle) after your gathering
Time required:	2 minutes

Confession

Because we're human

We confess our wrongs in silence, in tears, in whispers, in words now
(leave 10 seconds of silence)

Because we're human

We pray and beg with tears and cries

Because we're human

We're ignorant and imperfect

Because we're human

We need to be honest about our weakness and failings

Because we're human

We need to stand together admitting we're all part of something gone wrong

Because we're human

We need to know God's grace

Because we're human

We need more than a vague prayer and some regrets

Because we're human

We need something bodily, something real and tangible

Because we're human

We need to see and hold and smell and taste the evidence that makes second chances real

Because we're human

We need to be part of how God makes things right

Because we're human

We need to bake a bull or cook a cow or roast a rooster or grill some grain.

Because we're human

Sorry needs more than saying
Sorry needs stepping forward

Because we're human

Sorry needs starting over
Sorry needs sharing peace

Because we're human

Forgiveness needs a re-friending, reconciling feast

Because we're human

We need a celebration to assure each other we're not holding the grudges God has let go.

Thank you God, you forgive our humanness and feed our holiness.

May we live following Jesus human and holy example.

Amen.



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Optional action

Distribute the 14 cardboard body tear-outs/cut-outs around your gathering space.

Before the confession time begins, invite participants to find the bodies.

If they don't want to read they can pass it to someone who does.

If they want to read but can't make sure there is a chance for them to be told what is on the card, and assisted when the time comes for their prayer.

Explain that when a prayer has been read the body should be brought forward and placed in a central place.

If you have made a set of Holiness and Humanness curtains (see Call to Worship) place the figures in front of the Humanness curtains.

If you use this visual idea, underline the significance of gathering in the figures saying something like:

Sin affects us all. It divides us and disassociates us. We become estranged from one another, lost and isolated in our own selfishness and wrong.

In our prayers of confession, and God's compassionate forgiveness, God brings us back together again and brings us close to himself, reconciling our conflicts, mending our broken hearts and righting our ways.

As we search for and gather in the cardboard figures for our prayers of confession, may we see how God is calling us back together. To bring our sins and our sorries with us. May we hear God's forgiveness calling us to be reconciled to one another. May we forgive as we are forgiven.



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