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Forgiveness, written by Jeff Cook

This is a story about a village of people who were believers in God. Whenever villagers met each other, they would say, "God bless you this day."

The villagers shared everything they had. They ate together. They regularly worshipped together. They played games together. Whenever they were saying goodbye they would say, "Go in God's peace."

One day, one of the villagers, Nicko, was sick. Nicko asked his friend, Mantru, to bring him his share of the evening meal. Mantru agreed, to do this favour, but then he ate the food himself, rather than taking it to Nicko.

When Nicko recovered from his illness, he went to Mantru to complain about his actions. Nicko asked Mantru to apologize. Mantru refused. He said that Nicko had been sick and probably wouldn't have enjoyed the food anyway.

Nicko was sad and angry that his friend wouldn't apologize. In keeping with the village's traditions, Nicko asked a few friends to come with him to talk to Mantru again. Again, Mantru refused to apologize.

Nicko was sad and angry that his friend still wouldn't apologize. In keeping with the village's traditions, Nicko then had Mantru brought before the entire village community.

The chief listened to Nicko's story and Mantru's refusal to apologize. The chief then said, "Mantru has wronged Nicko. From now on, everyone is to treat Mantru in the way we would treat anyone who has wronged us, or any outsider who is not part of our village."

The next morning, when Mantru was walking through the village, everyone who met him said, "God bless you this day."

At mealtime, Mantru shared the village's food. Villagers invited him to join in playing games and invited him to join them in worship. At the end of the day, everyone said to Mantru, "Go in God's peace."