



Sin

The primary characteristic of the Christian's faith life is the on-going call to conversion. This is reflected through a deepening of relationships with God, neighbour, self and all of creation. Sin therefore is best understood as a breaking or damaging of one or more of these relationships.¹ Considering the moral development of the child, an appropriate approach to the topic of sin can be drawn from the initial understanding of the word sin in the Bible as "missing the mark". The Greek word *hamartia* derives from a technical word used in archery meaning to miss the mark. As the New Testament was written in Greek this word is found frequently when referring to sin, with St Paul's letter to the Romans alone containing thirty-nine examples of the word.

Opening up the concept of sin with young people through this lens recognizes that in the journey of faith and conversion, one can be aiming in the right direction but miss the target. This opens the door to exploring reconciliation through the unconditional love of God as celebrated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

¹ McBrien, R. (1994). *Catholicism*. North Blackburn, Vic.: CollinsDove, p.952