

# STAGE THREE

## THE KISS-LESS KISS

### **LISTEN - read - ponder - seed**

Listen to the poem, The kiss-less kiss.

### **listen - READ - ponder - seed**

While he (Jesus) was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend." MATTHEW 26 v 47-50

### **listen - read - PONDER - seed**

The poem and the text focus on Judas, the disciple of Jesus, betraying Him with a kiss. It's such an evocative image because it portrays something so broken; a kiss, symbolising friendship, intimacy and welcome, employed as the method of betrayal. So very broken. It's interesting to note that Jesus knew Judas would betray Him. He knew the brokenness of it all but didn't remove Himself from it; He went through it. He suffered the relational redundancy of humanity, the searing emotional pain of relational hurt, and yet from the cross uttered the words, "Father forgive them". He is not naive to the pains that you and I experience in life, He gets it, and shows us a way through. Forgiveness is never easy, but it is good, as Gandhi said "it is the attribute of the strong".

### **listen - read - ponder - SEED**

Take a moment to reflect on your own experience of broken relationships. Perhaps someone comes to mind that you need to forgive. It may feel too hard right now, but if you are able, pick up a pebble and let it drop to the ground as a physical act of forgiveness.

