

DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

TERM 6/YEAR 1 /PRAYER WEEK 2

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Leader: The Lord be with you.</p> <p>Response: And also with you</p>	<p>FORGIVENESS – WHAT IS IT? When you are an adult you get many bills through the post saying that you have to pay money for gas, electricity, water and so on. If you owe someone something it is called a debt. If you do not pay the money you owe, it is called 'going into the red' because the debt is sometimes written in red ink to show that it is owed and has yet not been paid. (Show them a debt of £10 written in red.) Debts may not always be in money. If your friends are horrible to you, you might feel like paying them back in similar behaviour. Jesus taught us to turn the other cheek not to respond like for like. Once you have paid your debt and no longer owe any money, your receipt is written in black. Forgiveness is like rubbing out the red and writing in black to show that the debt is not owed any more. (Cross out your bill with the black pen and write 'Nothing to pay'.)</p> <p>Comment Forgiveness is about cancelling debts of behaviour and not insisting on doing back to people what they did to you.</p>	<p>Think about a time when you have done something nasty to someone else.</p> <p>I am going to tear up some paper, we will pretend it is a list of all the things people do wrong. Listen to the sound. Forgiveness is when someone tears up the list of all the things you have done wrong so that you can be friends again.</p> <p>Dear God. Forgiveness is hard. It is hard to say sorry and it is hard to forgive others. Help us to say sorry and to forgive. Amen.</p>	<p>Do you need to forgive someone? How might you do this?</p>
	<p>BITTERNESS AND REVENGE <i>Show the children your best coat and say that it is better than anyone else's coat.</i> <i>Talk about how other people react when someone boasts.</i></p> <p>Joseph was one of twelve brothers, he was one of the youngest. His father, Jacob, like him more than his brothers, which was not fair. One day Jacob</p>	<p>Joseph made a choice. He chose to forgive. Think of the times when you have needed to forgive someone.</p>	<p>L:The peace of the Lord be always with you. R: And also with</p>

	<p>gave Joseph a special coat far better than anything his brothers had. This made Joseph's brothers very jealous. Why should their little brother be dressed better than they were? The more they thought about it the more jealous they became.</p> <p>To make things worse, Joseph had some strange dream. First he dreamt that all the sheaves of corn bowed down to him, then he dreamt that the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to him. Joseph realised that one day he would be an important person and many people including his own family would kneel to him. When he told his family about these dreams, his brothers were really annoyed and they decided they could stand this spoilt child no longer. When they had Joseph alone they took off his new coat and dipped it in goat's blood and decided to tell their father that Joseph had been killed. They were going to leave Joseph to die down in a pit but instead they sold him to some slave merchants travelling to Egypt.</p> <p>*When Joseph arrived in Egypt he was sold to a man called Potiphar. Joseph worked very hard and became a valued servant until one day he was falsely accused of attaching Potiphar's wife and he was thrown into prison. Joseph stayed there for many years, frightened and alone. One day two men joined him in prison. Both men had strange dreams which troubled them and Joseph told them what they meant. One of the men was released and went back to work for the King. He forgot all about Joseph until some-time later when the King had two strange dreams. Joseph was called out of prison to unravel the King's nightmares. He told the King that his strange dreams meant that there would be seven years of good harvest in Egypt and seven years of bad harvest. Joseph suggested they collect grain in the good years and store them ready for the bad years. The seven years of good harvest and the seven years of bad harvest happened, just as Joseph had said. Instead of being sent back to prison Joseph was put in charge of collecting the food and became one of the most important men in Egypt.</p> <p>When the seven years bad harvest came no one in Egypt went hungry, everyone had enough to eat. In Canaan, the land where Joseph's family</p>	<p>Prayer: Teach us to forgive, as bitterness only ruins lives and destroys friendships. Amen</p>	<p>you.</p>
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lived, times were hard and people had very little to eat. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy grain from the Egyptians. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food but they did not recognise the little brother they had sold as a slave many years before.

Joseph wanted to be friends with his brothers again, but first he wanted to make sure they had changed. He asked a servant to plant a golden cup in one of the sacks of grain his brothers had bought. When the brothers were about to go, he called out 'Stop!' and accused them of stealing. Joseph went through all the sacks and found the golden cup in Benjamin's sack. The other brothers swore that Benjamin had not taken the cup, they protested that Benjamin was innocent. They offered to be slaves themselves rather than lose Benjamin. Joseph knew they were changed men and told them that he was their long-lost brother Joseph whom they had sold as a slave. Joseph forgave his brothers and invited them all to come and live in Egypt.

Comment

There was wrong on both sides in this story – Joseph was a spoilt child and the brothers tried to kill him and sold him as a slave. But Joseph changed as he grew up and he was willing to forgive his brothers. Broken friendships can be mended only when there is forgiveness and change. Forgiveness does not always happen. Listen to the story again and see what might have happened if Joseph had not forgiven his brothers.

(Read the story above to the point marked * and then add this different ending.)

Joseph was so angry with his brothers that he swore he would get his own back one day. He was sold to a man called Potiphar and he worked hard so that he would win his freedom and one day return to Canaan and get his own back on his brothers. But his plans were ruined when he was falsely accused of attacking Potiphar's wife and was thrown in jail.

Joseph became bitter and hard. Once again he was suffering and he had

	<p>done nothing wrong – life was so unfair. It was all his brothers’ fault; one day he would have his revenge. While he was in jail in interpreted two men’s dreams. Later, when the King had some bad dreams Joseph was sent to interpret them. After telling the King what the dreams meant, Joseph was freed and given an important job. Soon, he thought, he would be able to deal with his brothers.</p> <p>One day his brothers came begging for food. Joseph laughed, they did not even recognise their little brother. Joseph planted a gold cup in one of their grain sacks and had them arrested for theft. Now he put his plan into action, he would make them suffer as he had suffered. Joseph made them work as slaves, then he had them thrown into prison. He raised their hopes of freedom and then dashed them. He would make them feel what he had felt. Joseph got his revenge – he was important, wealthy and free, but he was lonely and bitter.</p>		
	<p>FORGIVE US AS WE FORGIVE OTHERS</p> <p><i>You will need: Some items to bargain with (optional)</i></p> <p><i>Talk about striking bargains with friends. For example, someone might say, ‘I’ll let you play with my car if you let me play with your game, that’s only fair’. Say that it would not be fair if Jane let Kate play with her games, but Kate never let Jane play with hers.</i></p> <p><i>Ask the children to suggest the types of bargains they might make.</i></p> <p>One day Jesus’s disciples asked him to teach them how to pray, so he taught them this prayer. (use the form of the prayer your children know if they know the Lord’s prayer; if not use the version below.)</p> <p>Our Father in heaven; May your holy name be honoured; May your kingdom come; May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.</p>	<p>Think about your friends and the things they do that annoy you. Next time you complain about your friends think of some of the things you do wrong.</p> <p>Prayer: Father, help us to forgive other people, who are as imperfect as we are. We ask this in Jesus’ name, Amen.</p>	<p>Before you go to bed tonight think about all the things for which you would like to ask God to forgive you.</p>

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	<p>Give us today the food we need. <i>Forgive us the wrongs we have done, As we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.</i> Do not bring us to hard testing, But keep us safe from the Evil One. (Matthew 6:9-13 Good News Bible version)</p> <p>The piece of this prayer we are interested in today is; <i>'Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.'</i></p> <p>If you look closely it seems like a bargain. God is making a type of bargain. 'If you forgive other people the wrong they do to you,' days God, 'I will forgive the wrong that you do' that's only fair. People cannot expect to be forgiven themselves and yet never forgive anyone else.</p> <p>Comment Forgiveness is never easy, but sometimes it is easier to forgive others if we look at some of the things we have done wrong and realise that we all make mistakes. Forgiveness is the best solution in an imperfect world.</p>		
	<p>THOSE WHO ARE FORGIVEN MUCH, LOVE MUCH</p> <p><i>Prime a member of staff to rush in with a coat on looking tired and harassed.</i></p> <p><i>Talk with the children about looking after visitors. Ask them what sort of things they do when a visitor arrives, particularly if the person has had a long journey.</i></p> <p>In Jesus's time it was the custom to wash visitors' feet when they arrive. One day Jesus went to the house of Simon the Pharisee for a meal. While they were eating and talking a woman arrived, she sat down at Jesus's feet and began to cry. She washed Jesus's feet with her tears and dried them</p>	<p>Some people think they are too bad to be a friend of God, but some of Jesus's best friends had a very bad record. Paul used to capture Christians and put them in prison. Peter once pretended that he never knew Jesus. Anyone can be forgiven if they really want to change.</p> <p>Prayer: When we find it hard to forgive, teach us to look at ourselves and</p>	

	<p>with her hair. She poured precious, expensive perfume over his feet. Simon watched this and thought to himself, 'If this man were really God's special king he would know what sort of woman this is, he would know she is a bad woman and he would not let her touch him.'</p> <p>Jesus knew what Simon was thinking. 'When I came to your house you did not welcome me or give me water to wash my feet. This woman has welcomed me and washed my feet with her tears. I know she has been bad in the past but she is trying to show that she wants to change.' Jesus looked at the woman and told her that her sins were forgiven and she went away. Jesus explained, 'Sometimes people who have done a lot of wrong and are sorry find it easier to forgive others because they know what it means to be forgiven. Those who have been forgiven a lot love others more than those who have been forgiven only a little.'</p> <p>Comment There is an old saying that great sinners sometimes make great saints. This woman had done a lot wrong but she had shown that she was sorry and wanted to change.</p> <p><i>Margaret Cooling, Assemblies for Primary Schools: Pub RMEP, 1990, used with kind permission</i></p>	<p>remember what it is like to be forgiven. We do this in Jesus' name. Amen.</p>	
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