



The Diocese of  
Canterbury

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

## DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

### YEAR 2/TERM 6/WEEK 2

### NEW TESTAMENT CHARACTERS WHO RESPONDED TO GOD BY CHANGING AND GROWING

This gives the opportunity to look at three characters in one story. This parable can be brought up to date/related to pupils' own experiences. There is a version in "The Almost Instant Assembly Book 2". There is also an opportunity to look at Zacchaeus, a much loved figure for what he can teach us all!

SEAL link - Relationships

Values link - Forgiveness

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Use an image of a painting of The Prodigal Son for children to focus on, particularly the returning son.</p> <p>Eg Rembrandt painting 'The Return of the Prodigal Son' or similar</p>	<p><b>THE PRODIGAL SON (whole school)</b> <b>Luke 15 v 11-32</b> <i>On a flip chart or board, draw 3 columns headed 'Younger son' 'Father' and 'Older son'. This will be needed for the next 3 worship times &amp; will need to left available for pupils to add to.</i></p> <p>This story is also known as The Lost Son and was a Parable told by Jesus. The story can be found in The Lion Storyteller Bible and there is also a version on BBC Class Clips (4154)</p> <p>A farmer had two sons. He explained that, when he died, his money would be split between them. The younger son decided he didn't want to wait until that time and asked his father if he could have his share of the money now. The father agreed and the son left home. He spent his money on parties and having a good time. He suddenly had a lot of 'friends' and was very popular. When the younger son ran out of money &amp; his 'friends' deserted him, he made the difficult decision to return home &amp; face the consequences. Ask the children how the younger son looks in the painting. Can they come up with words to describe him? (Humble, tired, relieved, embarrassed etc.) Write these on a board/flip chart for the children to see. Is it always easy to admit that you are wrong?</p>	<p>Prayer: Dear Lord, Sometimes, as you know, we make bad decisions. Help us to have the courage to admit this and ask for forgiveness, from our friends, our families and from you. May we also be willing to forgive others, Amen.</p>	<p>Have a Prayer tree – this can actually be a small branch or similar. On leaf shaped coloured paper, pupils can, anonymously writes their 'bad decisions'. In this way, they 'are owning' up and can ask for God's forgiveness.</p> <p>Ask pupils to add words to the</p>
	<p><b>THE FORGIVING FATHER (whole school)</b> <b>Luke 15 v 11-32</b> Briefly, recap on the story from last worship</p>		



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<p>Same as above but look at Father.</p>	<p>Ask the pupils to look carefully at the father in the painting. Which words best describe him (happy, over-joyed, relieved etc.)? Write these words in column two, next to those from the last assembly. How would you have expected him to feel/ behave? How did he show love to his younger son? Compare the lists of words &amp; pick up on any that have been added. It is not stated – but the father must have been shocked, angry and/or disappointed when his son asked him for his share of the inheritance (it was tantamount to saying he wished his father was dead). However in the end the father (like God the Heavenly Father) welcomed back the prodigal son with unconditional love.</p>		<p>‘Younger son’ column before tomorrow.</p>
<p>As above but look at the older brother in the picture.</p>	<p><b>THE ANGRY BROTHER (whole school)</b> <b>Luke 15 v 11-32</b> Again, remind the children of the story we have been looking at in our worship. Ask the pupils if they are an older sibling. How does that make them feel sometimes? Do you have to take responsibility or the blame for things? Ask the pupils if they are an older sibling. How does that feel sometimes? Do you have to take responsibility or the blame for things? It is easy to forget the older, obedient brother – but pupils will be able to identify with the “it’s not fair” attitude which he had. Which words best describe the older son in the picture (angry, jealous, frustrated etc.)? Write these in column three on the chart. Look at all three lists &amp; again pick up on any words added since the last worship. He could not change his attitude – therefore he could not grow (in love, understanding or forgiveness).</p>	<p>Prayer: We thank you, loving God, that when we come to say sorry, you are always ready to forgive. Please help us to be like you. When people say sorry to us, may we forgive them straightaway, ready at once to be friends again. Amen</p>	<p>Ask the pupils to add words to the column headed ‘Father’ to describe his feelings.</p> <p>Ask the pupils to add words to the column headed ‘Older son’ to describe his feelings.</p>
	<p><b>ZACCHAEUS (class or key stage)</b> <b>Luke 19 v 1-10</b> Call five pupils out and give each one some money. Make an announcement that the government is going to tax everyone 10p. Add on 5p for yourself and collect the taxes, counting up how much money you have made for yourself. Explain to the children that</p>	<p>You can show an image for the children to focus on as they say this. It will reinforce ‘and forgive us our trespasses’.</p>	<p>Ask pupils to think about what advice they think Jesus may have given Zacchaeus.</p>



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<p>Play the hymn 'Amazing Grace' as children enter/ wait for worship to begin.</p>	<p>this is a form of cheating.  Tell the children the story of Zacchaeus, from a suitable version, depending on the age group. There is also a version on BBC Class Clips 4465 (2:49 mins)  Tax collectors were often cheats and unpopular but Jesus knew that Zacchaeus could and would change. We don't know exactly what Jesus said to Zacchaeus or why he changed, but we do know that he was sorry.  Zacchaeus changed his behaviour, which helped people to forgive him. He didn't just <i>say</i> he was going to change, he <i>showed</i> it in his actions.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.teachustoprayer.co.uk/img/prayerbookth13.jpg">www.teachustoprayer.co.uk/img/prayerbookth13.jpg</a>    Hymn: Zacchaeus was a very little man.</p>	<p>What would their advice have been?  If you have a 'Buddies' system in your school, promote how this will help working together.</p>
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