

TERM 5 /YEAR 3 /WEEK 1 – Responding to Forgiveness

It is important to reflect that Forgiveness is at the very heart of the Easter story as expressed in John 3:16, 'For God so love the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life'.

SEAL link – Getting on and Falling out

Values link - Forgiveness

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Jesus is the Light of the World</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The Lord is here His Spirit is with Us</p>	<p>Jesus Forgives (whole school) Luke 23 v 24 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do' True forgiveness is a really hard thing to do – it's all very well to say 'forgive and forget' but not as easy to do so in practice. But Christ showed that forgiving is possible even when it is most difficult. Whilst He was dying he asked God to forgive those who had hurt Him, those who had said bad things about Him, even the Roman soldiers who were drawing lots to see who could get His clothes. He asked them to be forgiven even though they weren't saying sorry. If we truly forgive someone, we don't wait for someone else to show remorse, we have to be prepared to forgive without receiving something immediately from that person in return. Ask the pupils to think about how difficult that might be for them. Explain that over the week we will talking about people who forgave even when it was very difficult. However, if we forgive others, God will forgive us. Resources: a small and a large gift box. Ask the children to imagine that forgiveness is a gift. The small box is their gift of forgiveness to someone else but the large box represents a much larger gift from God: his Son. God forgives us, no matter what we do.</p> <hr/> <p>Forgiveness in the Old Testament (whole school) Genesis Chapter 37 Ask the pupils to discuss whether they ever fall out with people in their family, brothers, sisters, cousins etc. Acknowledge that sometimes we find it hard to forgive the people that are closest to us. <i>Joseph and his brothers</i> Older pupils are likely to know this story so well that they will be able to re- enact it for younger pupils. Ask pupils to narrate the beginning and end of story (Lion Storyteller Bible – Joseph the Dreamer, Joseph the Ruler) This explains how Joseph was wronged by his brothers and how he came to forgive them . Ask the pupils to consider how hard this must have been for Joseph – so why did Joseph forgive them? Explain the link between loving someone and forgiving them.</p>	<p>The Lord's Prayer Invite pupils to think about the phrase from the Lord's prayer 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'. Think about one thing to say sorry for and one person to forgive. How will they let that person know they are forgiven?</p> <p><i>Suggested prayer.</i> Dear God We thank you for the gift of forgiveness brought to us by your Son, Jesus Christ. We ask that, just as you forgive us, that you also give us strength in our hearts to forgive others . Amen</p>	<p><i>Send us out into the world to love, forgive and share Your peace. Amen</i></p> <p>Or</p> <p><i>The Grace The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Sprit be with us now and forever more Amen</i></p>

	<p>Forgiveness in the world (whole school) Matthew 6 v 12 Nelson Mandela: The Long Walk to Freedom Explain that Nelson Mandela was a leader who was put in prison for 27 years for trying to make things fair for everyone in his country where people were not allowed the same rights (refer to the human act of rights from week 2) . Whilst he was in prison, things continued to be very unfair for people in his country. People were very angry with each other and 27 years is a long time to be angry! However, when Nelson Mandela was released he wanted to make everyone unite, to work together. He knew that he would have to demonstrate forgiveness so that his people would do the same. Ask the children who would Nelson have to forgive – what do you think he did to show forgiveness? There are 3 specific acts which you might want to share with pupils, if appropriate: He invited his former prison guard to dinner on the 20th anniversary of his release, he invited prison guards to his inauguration as president, he had lunch with the judge who sentenced him to death.</p>	<p><i>Suggested praise:</i> Make me a channel of your peace</p> <p>Reflect: St, Francis of Assisi who wrote the prayer on which the hymn above is based also said: ‘Preach the gospel and, if necessary, use words’.- what does this mean for forgiveness? (actions speak louder than words)</p>	
	<p>Our Forgiveness (key stage or class) Matthew 18 v 23-35 The Parable of the Forgiving Servant Remind pupils of God’s greatest gift : His Son who was sent so that we might be forgiven no matter what we do. In this parable, Jesus is explaining that, because we have been forgiven, then we should be also be prepared to forgive. Remind the pupils that the best type of forgiveness is shown by our actions not just by our words. Discuss scenarios appropriate to the key stage and the forgiving action that we should demonstrate to show that we really forgive someone: eg a friend trips us up on the playground (we accept their apology and continue to play with them, someone breaks our favourite pencil – we offer them a new one). These could be accidental scenarios for younger pupils. Discuss with older pupils what they would do if they were expected to forgive someone who had deliberately hurt them or broken their property. What have they learned from the examples of others about being forgiving no matter how hard it is?</p>		