

KS2 Unit 2, Lesson 4: What did Jesus teach about sin, forgiveness and redemption? The Prodigal Son

Context: Previously children will have learned about why Jesus is important to Christians (Key Stage 1 Unit 9) and will be familiar with the narratives of the Christmas and Easter stories, as well as some other bible stories.

Overview:

- Children will learn the parable of 'The Prodigal Son'
- Children will understand who the different characters in the parable are meant to represent and will begin to understand the meaning of the parable.

Essential core: Christians believe that "God is love" (1 John 4.8). Christians believe the Bible talks about what God is like and his relationship with people who believe in Him.

Vocabulary: prodigal.

Resources: access to internet or copies of Rembrandt's 'The return of the prodigal', or Ann House's 'The Foolish Father'. The Lion Story Teller Bible, The lost son powerpoint.

INTRODUCTION

Ask children if they have ever not done what their parent/ carer or an adult has asked them to, or had an argument with them. There are likely to be lots of responses! In 2s or 3s, ask children to act out a real or imagined scene where a child and parent are disagreeing about something (sensitivity may be needed towards some children's home situations). (This is helpful later when trying to identify who the different people in the story represent).

When you have watched a few scenarios acted out, tell them you are going to tell a story about a son who disagreed with his father. It's a story that Jesus told, and

You could also look at a painting of the story, and ask the children what they notice about the painting before telling the story, for example: The return of the prodigal son by Rembrandt, or

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parable_of_the_Prodigal_Son#/media/File:Rembrandt_Harmensz_van_Rijn_-_Return_of_the_Prodigal_Son_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg

or the painting by Ann House: The Foolish Father from the parables project (Exeter Diocese)

<http://www.exeter.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Three-Parables.pdf>

Tell the story, using the lion storyteller bible 'The big spender' p.94, or from REquest:
<http://request.org.uk/restart/2015/11/23/the-lost-son/>

Ask the children why they think Jesus told this parable- a story with a hidden meaning. Who do the different characters in the story represent? Tell the children that the father in the story is supposed to be like God. Can they think of how the father in the story is like God? Who is the younger son supposed to be like (people-like you and me who prefer to go our own way instead of God's- the drama sketches the children did earlier may help them to identify this). Who is the older son supposed to be like? (The Pharisees- those who think they are already good enough and don't need God's forgiveness).

PLENARY

Look at the definitions of sin and forgiveness in the powerpoint. Ask children to discuss in pairs how sin and forgiveness come into this story.