

KS2 Unit 2, Lesson 6: What did Jesus teach about sin, forgiveness and redemption?

The parable of the unforgiving servant

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. They will have learned the parable of the prodigal son and its meaning to Christians: that God is loving and forgiving towards people who come back to him.

Overview: Children will learn the story of the parable of the unforgiving servant.

Essential core: Christians believe the Bible talks about what God is like and his relationship with people who believe in Him.

Vocabulary: sin, forgiveness,

Resources: forgiveness power point, labels 'Yes' 'No' for both ends of room, access to internet., Christianity Unpacked DVD, how easy is forgiveness? sheet, post-it notes, large sheets of paper, box.

<http://request.org.uk/teachers/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/09/Forgiveness-add-materials.pdf>

<http://request.org.uk/teachers/teaching-resources/bible-resources/new-testament/2013/09/09/the-parable-of-the-unforgiving-debtor-video>

INTRODUCTION

Talk about the definitions of 'sin' and 'forgiveness' which we looked at in the last couple of lessons. We will come back to the story of the prodigal son later, but first we're going to think about forgiveness.

Look at the story of 'Jon' and 'Tony' in the power point. Ask children to think about the question- Should Jon forgive Tony?

Label one end of the room 'Yes, Jon should forgive Tony' and the other end 'No, Jon should not forgive Tony', and ask children to imagine a line from one end of the room to the other. They are going to place themselves on the line to show what they think about the answer to the question. Once children have placed themselves, ask a few children in different positions why they have put themselves in that place on the line. Then allow other children to move if what they have heard has made them change their minds. Ask 'If Tony were to say sorry, would that make a difference to where you are standing?' Allow children to move and then take a few ideas.

Give groups of children the cards on the 'how easy is forgiveness?' sheet. Explain that they are all situations where someone has wronged someone else. Ask them to think of a few more examples of these of their own and write them on the blank cards. Then ask them to place the cards in order from 'easy to forgive' to 'hard to forgive'. Use this activity as a basis for discussion: Is it a good idea to forgive someone? Are there some things that they think should not be forgiven? How do they think a Christian might answer these questions? There are some useful teachers notes on Christian views of forgiveness at: <http://request.org.uk/teachers/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/09/Forgiveness-add-materials.pdf>

and some good activity ideas although some are more appropriate for older children.

Watch the parable of the unmerciful servant on Request:

<http://request.org.uk/teachers/teaching-resources/bible-resources/new-testament/2013/09/09/the-parable-of-the-unforgiving-debtor-video/>

Or use the Christianity Unpacked DVD which has been provided to your school - replacements are available on request through Somerset SACRE.

Discuss the story to ensure understanding: Who were the characters? What was each of them like? What did they do? Who does each character represent? The questions on the Christianity Unpacked DVD are a helpful guide.

Use the materials in the Christianity Unpacked DVD to discuss the story of Antony Walker, whose family forgave his killers due to their Christian faith. This material will need to be used very sensitively with regard to the maturity and age of the children- an alternative would be to return to the 'Jon and Tony' story from the start of the lesson, and ask if it would make a difference if Jon was a Christian.

PLENARY

Give children post-it notes and ask them to choose which of these responses they would like to make: a) What question would you like to ask a Christian about forgiveness? b) Who do you need to forgive? c) Is there anyone you need to ask forgiveness from? D) Do you think forgiveness is important- why/why not. Provide large sheets with the questions at the top for children to stick responses to and a box to put responses in if they would rather keep their response private. Play quiet, reflective music while children make their responses.

