

Forgiveness: The prodigal son



1. As the pupils enter

Have the **webpage open**. Play your chosen music and display any images.

2. Introduction

Let the assembly know that today they'll be thinking about something that is very simple, but is often hard to do - saying sorry and offering forgiveness. Ask pupils if anyone would like to share an occasion when they forgave someone, or someone forgave them. Depending on the details you could probe further by asking whether it was easy to do and how it made the individual feel. Let pupils know that they're going to watch a short video - an adaptation of a well-known story from the Bible - in which forgiveness is the key theme.

3. Play the video

The duration is 3' 39" and the final words are: 'was lost, but now is found.'

4. Time to talk

Ask everyone to turn to the person beside them and say two things they remember from the video. (If you prefer you could ask the Video questions from the web page).

Then lead a discussion about forgiveness by asking:

- This story is about forgiveness. The father found it easy to forgive his son. Are there times when it is more difficult to forgive other people?
- Do you think the father was right to forgive his son?
- Do you think the older son should also forgive his younger brother?
- Why do you think forgiveness is important?
- What happens if we refuse to forgive?

5. Opportunity to sing

See the webpage for suggestions.

Link to video page



6. Opportunity to reflect

Focus the reflection on the exploration of forgiveness:

Let's take a moment to think about the amazing forgiveness in the story of 'The Prodigal Son'...
When people agree to forgive they agree to make a fresh start...
Think about how the son felt when he was forgiven by his father...
And how he might have treated other people after he had been forgiven...and given the chance to make a fresh start...
Think about times when you have forgiven...and about why it felt the right choice to make...

7. Opportunity for prayer

Use your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Let us pray', etc) and:

Thank you for stories like the parable of 'The Prodigal Son' that help us to think about forgiveness.
Help us to be kind to others and to value forgiveness.
Thank you for the opportunities when we are able to make a fresh start.
Amen.