

# Saying sorry: Jonah and the Whale

## 1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-saying-sorry-jonah-and-the-whale/zwrfttd>

Play your chosen music and display the image of Jonah praying in the Whale:

[http://teach.files.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/saying\\_sorry\\_jonah\\_and\\_the\\_whale.jpg](http://teach.files.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/saying_sorry_jonah_and_the_whale.jpg)

## 2. Introduction

Today we're thinking about a word we use a lot - perhaps every day. Sometimes it can feel like a very hard word to say. It's a word we use when we've done something wrong and we want to make things better again. Does anyone know what word I'm thinking of..? [Gather responses] Yes the word is 'sorry'. I wonder when you last said sorry to someone and why. Have a think about that now - and turn to the person next to you and tell them when it was. [Allow time]

Saying sorry can be hard to do. And we'll think more about that in a few minutes. But first we're going to watch a story. It's a famous story from the bible about saying sorry and asking for forgiveness. Perhaps you'll have heard of it. The story is called 'Jonah and the Whale'.

## 3. Play the video

The duration is 4' 33". Final words: '...for delivering his message. "At last!"'

## 4 & 5. Time to talk

Use the story questions if you wish. Then tell the assembly:

**In the story Jonah found it hard to say "sorry" to God at the start. And sometimes saying sorry can be really hard to do. Why do you think that is?** [Steer the children towards understanding that saying sorry is an acknowledgement of having done something wrong and our pride can get in the way].

**Why is it important that we say sorry when we've done something wrong?** [Steer the children towards understanding that saying sorry is a first step towards receiving forgiveness and making things better again].

**What can happen if we do something wrong - for example, if we do something to hurt another person - and we don't say sorry?** [Gather responses].

**When we say sorry to someone that we've hurt what should the other person do in return? Should they simply forgive us?** [Gather responses].

## 6. Time to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

# Play video



## 7. Opportunity to reflect

*Saying sorry isn't always easy. But it's important when we've done something wrong that we understand that saying sorry is a first step to making things better again...*

*It doesn't mean that the other person has to forgive us there and then...*

*Perhaps we'll have to do other things as well so show we're truly sorry...*

*But saying 'I'm sorry' is a great first step to making things better again...*

*Think to yourself about saying sorry...*

*Is there someone you owe an apology..?*

*If so, what will you do today to say sorry..?*

## 8. Opportunity for prayer

Use your standard form of address ('Dear God', etc) and:

*When we do wrong help us to say sorry...*

*And when others say sorry to us for doing wrong, help us to forgive...*

*Thank you that we can make things better again. Amen.'*