

FORGIVENESS

1. As pupils enter

Play your chosen music as the children enter.

2. Introduction

Ask the children to look at the board and then start to write numbers on the board. Ask the children to imagine that each number is a mistake that someone (or perhaps a toy character) has made. When you have filled the board, say that there are a lot of mistakes here and the person (or toy character) must be feeling sad about them.

Explain that forgiving someone is starting again and we sometimes use the phrase 'to wipe the slate clean'. Clean the whole board so that it is clear and say that is a way of imagining what people try to do when they forgive someone. They choose to let go of all the mistakes and to start again.

Explain that the story in the video that everyone is about to watch is about the value of forgiveness.

3. Play the video

Duration: 3' 48". Final words: 'See you again soon. Bye!'

4. After the video - Time to talk

Lead a discussion about forgiveness by asking:

- What happens when the younger son's money runs out? (He is sad, hungry and lonely and finds a job looking after pigs)
- What does the younger son decide to do? What happens? (He decides to return home to the farm, intending to become a worker there. His father is overjoyed to see him again and forgives him)
- 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?
- Why do you think forgiveness is important? What happens if we refuse to forgive?

5. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

Video page



6. Opportunity to reflect

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 why it felt the right choice to make...

7. Opportunity for prayer

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

Thank you for stories that help us to think about forgiveness.

Thank you for the parable of 'The Prodigal Son' and that You forgive. Help us to be kind to others and to value forgiveness.

Thank you for the opportunities when we have a fresh start. Amen.