

2.10 Upper KS2 - Salvation - Lesson 9: Forgiveness in action

Context: In this lesson pupils will build on their understanding of the meaning of salvation to all humanity and the message that 'we need to learn to forgive others as God has forgiven us' and to go on forgiving others. Pupils will understand the difference this can make to their own lives and that of others if this is the spirit within which they try to conduct their lives.

Essential core:

- know that Christians emphasize that Jesus is the Saviour of the world and through his death the sins of humanity have been forgiven
- reflect on and appraise the view that Easter celebrates Jesus dying to take the punishment (atonement)/pay the debt of sin (redemption) so that people can be forgiven by God and live in a relationship with him.

Resources

<https://request.org.uk/resource/jesus/parables/the-unforgiving-servant-2/>

Vocabulary: forgiveness, debt, atonement, redemption, punishment

Introduction: Read/tell the story of The Unforgiving Servant (also known as Unmerciful Servant) Matthew 18: 21-35. Use a version familiar to pupils. Emphasize the layers of forgiveness needed (cause and effect) and discuss the importance of 'doing to others as you would have them do to you'.

Build up: Watch REquest film clip(s)

<https://request.org.uk/resource/jesus/parables/the-unforgiving-servant-2/>

Discuss. How can forgiving rescue a broken friendship?

Talk about feelings of guilt and the difference being forgiven can make.

Talk about what happens when one person will not forgive.

Task: Use the story to carry out role play/Godly Play discussing with the children issues that are relevant to them in their everyday lives and circumstances to make this a 'real life' experience for them. Issues identified could be- playground games and minor fall outs (unkind words). Relate own experiences through role play to support thinking if necessary.

Think of a time when... you have needed to be forgiven; you needed to forgive.

What action did you take? What actions did others take?

Discuss: We need to learn to forgive others as God forgave us. Link to the question asked 'how many times should we forgive- 7 times? Seventy times seven is the reply (490) times. How easy/difficult is it to do this? What excuses do we come up with when it is our turn to forgive others? Are these reasons ever justified?

Plenary and formative assessment:

Why is it that Christians feel able to forgive others (even murderers) for their actions?

Why is the act of forgiveness important to them?

What does the act of forgiveness mean to us as individuals?

How does it feel when we are able to forgive/are forgiven by others?