



YEAR

3

UNIT B

RECONCILIATION

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit involves the children exploring human choices, the consequences of sin, Christ's teaching on forgiveness and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

Where the unit fits in The Unit builds on previous work undertaken in Year 2 about forgiveness and the experience of being forgiven.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children have:

- some understanding of Jesus' teaching of forgiveness
- heard about right and wrong choices.

SKILLS

Group work, discussions, thinking skills, research skills, sequencing skills.

VOCABULARY

Choices, sin, reconciliation, forgiveness, change, penance, absolution, act of contrition, parable, Prodigal Son, Zacchaeus.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that human beings often have freedom to make choices. They will understand the difference between a good and a bad choice and the consequences these bring. They will know some teaching of Jesus about the forgiveness of sin when wrong choices have been made. They will understand that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the Church's celebration of God's forgiveness of sin.

Less able children will know that human beings can make wrong choices. They will recall some of the things Jesus said about forgiveness. They will know that Christ's forgiveness is celebrated in Reconciliation.

More able children will have a greater knowledge of the teaching of Jesus about forgiveness. They will be able to think of ways in which receiving and giving forgiveness are important in life. They will have a good understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and will be able to explain the meaning of different parts of the Sacramental celebration.

A.T.1 A.T.2

2a	2b
3a	2d
3c	3a
	3b

1b	1a
2a	1b
	2b
	2d

3a	3a
3b	3b
3c	3c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C8 Their freedom to choose and the responsibility to choose the good.
L2 Of the motives and emotions which influence choices.

L1 Accounts in scripture of God's invitations and a variety of responses.

R1 Hear, read and explore gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus.

C7 Jesus' attitude to sinners and his teaching about sorrow and forgiveness.
L4 The values of sharing, showing respect and caring for others.

- Ask the children to discuss what they like about themselves.
 - Introduce the idea that there is nobody else in the world quite like them. Support this with some quiet reflection.
 - Read the story of the creation of human beings.
 - What does it tell us about human beings? Does it say we are made in a special way?
 - Think of our gifts and abilities as something that God has given to each of us.
 - Introduce the idea that God has given us the gift and ability to have a relationship with him and with other human beings.
 - One of the gifts that God has given us is the gift of choice. God gives us this gift because he loves us.
 - Choices are something we have to make all day and everyday.
 - Brainstorm range of choices that we make and record information in a flow chart.
 - Some of the choices are more important than others. Discuss our place in order of priority. Why have you chosen this order?
 - Explore some of the differences between "good" choices and "bad" choices. What effect do good or bad choices have upon ourselves and others?
 - Why do we make certain choices at certain times?
 - What influences the choices we make?
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- Revise previous work on Jesus choosing the twelve disciples.
 - Why do you think that Jesus chose these twelve people?
 - Emphasise that Jesus was able to make important choices too.
 - What did Jesus do before he made his choice of the disciples?
 - Why do you think they chose to answer his call and follow him?
 - What do you think were some of the consequences of their choice?
 - Children to work in pairs and interview each other as if they were a disciple and why they chose to follow Jesus.
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- Jesus taught his disciples through parables? What is a parable?
 - Explain that Jesus sometimes used parables to help people understand the consequences of their choices and about the love and forgiveness of God. What parables of Jesus can the children recall?
 - Share the parable of the prodigal son.
 - Explore through discussion the different stages of the parable and the different attitudes of the characters involved at each stage.
 - What choices did the two sons make? Why? What choices did the Father make? Why? Explore with the children the consequences of these different choices. Create a table or grid to record findings.
 - Retell the parable through mime and sign language.
 - Retell the parable for the children through the eyes of the different characters. Give the children an opportunity to do the same.
 - Children to write their own version of the parable as if they were the Father or the younger son. What title might you give to the parable?
 - Discuss what the parable might teach about God. In what way could the parable help followers of Jesus think about their own need for forgiveness and offering forgiveness to others?
 - Create some prayers to God the Father about forgiveness making reference to what the father was like in the parable of the prodigal son.
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- Jesus encountered many people during his ministry to whom he was able to bring the forgiveness of God.
 - Children to read the story of Zacchaeus.
 - Find Jericho on the map of the Holy Land.
 - Create words and captions to describe what Zacchaeus was like before, during and after his meeting with Jesus. What evidence have you got for this?
 - Make up a role-play to explore what Zacchaeus was like before meeting Jesus. Discuss what his relationship was like with other people. Do you think he was really happy? Was he lonely?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

L2 That emotions are gifts to be valued and used responsibly; that recognising emotions and taking responsibility for them is important.

- Know that we are often free to make choices.
- Understand some of the motives and emotions which influence our choices.
- Reflect on some good and bad choices that people can make.

L1 That God calls and invites a free response.

- Know that Jesus taught his disciples the importance of forgiveness.
- That the parable of the prodigal son teaches us about the forgiveness of God.
- Reflect on own need for forgiveness and how to extend it to others?

C7 Of God's love and mercy which are freely given.

L4 Of generosity and unselfishness for others.

- Know the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus.
- Understand that being accepted and forgiven by Jesus enabled Zacchaeus to change.
- Imagine the thoughts and feelings of Zacchaeus at this event.

Use some of this work as the beginning of a class display. Use newspapers to find stories about different types of choices.

Use ICT resources to explore this parable.

Draw pictures of the different scenes of the parable and try and caption the feelings and emotions of the different characters.

This story is ideal for drama work and group discussion. Look at poems and songs about this story.

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PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

L6 The Christian values that inform love of neighbour and oneself.

C11 A variety of prayers and prayer forms; prayer of sorrow.

R1 Hear, read and explore key events in the life of Jesus.

C1 Celebrations which mark significant events in peoples lives.

C2 Elements of sacramental celebration.

C7 Jesus' attitudes towards sinners and his teaching about sorrow and forgiveness.

C9 The Rite of reconciliation and its significance.

C11 A variety of prayer forms. The Act of Contrition.

- Children to write a letter to a friend telling them the news that Zacchaeus has changed.
 - What words and actions of Jesus show that he was ready to offer Zacchaeus forgiveness?
 - Emphasise to the children that through meeting Jesus people were forgiven and able to change.
 - Children to imagine that they are Zacchaeus and they have to tell a friend about what happened when Jesus came. Emphasise the importance of descriptive language and the change that had taken place in your life.
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- Model a simple story for the children of somebody needing forgiveness from another person and what that experience of being forgiven was like.
 - Explore with the children the meaning of the word "forgiveness".
 - Discuss what it is like to be forgiven and what it is like to be able to forgive others. Is it always easy? What is it like when it is difficult to forgive?
 - When have you needed to receive forgiveness?
 - Ask the children to recall what they have learnt from the life and teaching of Jesus about forgiveness.
 - Provide children with opportunities to reflect on these questions and write their own prayers about forgiveness.
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- Share the story of Jesus and the woman anointing his feet with oil.
 - Where did this take place? Who was at the dinner? Did you think that Jesus expected this visitor? Why do you think the woman came to Jesus? What do you think was the reaction of other people in the room? What was the reaction of Jesus? What did the woman do that Simon had failed to do?
 - Children to imagine that they were at this event. Create a court room scene with a prosecution and defence for the woman's actions. Ask the children to prepare their evidence statements.
 - What does this story tell us about Jesus? What does it tell us about forgiveness?
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- For Catholic Christians the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's forgiveness of sin. Explain that the priest celebrates the Sacrament in the place of Jesus.
 - Explore with the children the meaning of the word "reconciliation".
 - Discuss with the children the importance of preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - Help them to think about their choices which may have resulted in sin.
 - Create prayers expressing sorrow for sin
 - Learn an act of contrition and discuss the meaning of the words.
 - Explore the structure of the sacrament of Reconciliation. Use pictures to help children understand the structure. Emphasise the following points and remind the children that what happened to Zacchaeus when he met Jesus happens in the celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - 1 Welcome and introduction by the priest.
 - 2 Possible scripture reading.
 - 3 Confessing of sins.
 - 4 The priest talks to us and tries to help us so that we can follow Jesus.
 - 5 We receive a penance – a prayer and maybe some other action as an act of thanksgiving for God's forgiveness.
 - 6 We pray an act of contrition.
 - 7 We receive absolution and God's forgiveness.
 - 8 We go in peace to try and live as better followers of Jesus.
 - Create a picture and storyboard of the different parts of the Rite of Reconciliation.
 - Invite a priest to talk to the children about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - Discuss with the children the meaning of the act of contrition, penance and absolution.
 - For those children preparing for First Reconciliation. Complete this unit of work by providing them with opportunities to record their own thoughts and reflections about this celebration.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

L6 Of Christian values of justice, compassion, truthfulness and respect.

C11 Increased understanding of the variety of forms of prayer.

- Know that Jesus showed love and mercy to those who had sinned.
- Understand the importance of this for the woman who came and anointed him.

C1 That the celebration of significant events express thanksgiving and joy in growth and change.

C7 Of God's love and mercy which are freely given.

C9 Of contrition, confession and absolution and desire to try harder.

C11 Increased understanding of a variety of forms of prayer.

- Know that sin is the result of wrong choices.
- That the sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's forgiveness of sin.
- Can sequence and structure the Rite of Reconciliation.
- That the act of contrition is an important prayer asking for God's forgiveness.
- Understand some reasons for seeking God's forgiveness.
- Recite by heart and reflect on the meaning of the act of contrition.

Some of these ideas will be very important for the children who are preparing for First Reconciliation.

Make a class display of the storyboards.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Lk. 19: 1-10 – The Story of Zaccheus

Lk. 15: 11-32 – The Parable of the Prodigal Son

OTHER LINKS

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Learn some songs and hymns about seeking God's forgiveness.
- Use prayers and written expressions of sorrow in class based worship.
- Some opportunities for moments of quiet reflection and a simple examination of conscience should be provided.
- Create a penitential litany.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?