

# YEAR

# 1

# UNIT G

# FORGIVENESS

## ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the importance of forgiveness as a gift we receive and as a way that we can show love to others. The unit will also explore the choices that children make, that these can be good or bad and the consequences that arise from them. The unit will also develop the children's understanding of the need to say sorry when bad choices are made.

## WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on work in Nursery and Reception about saying sorry and asking for forgiveness.

## PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if the children have:

- some prior knowledge and experience of forgiveness and saying sorry
- prior knowledge of the parable of the Prodigal Son
- some prior knowledge and experience of making choices.

## SKILLS

Discussion, imagining, role-play, questioning, hot seating, decision making, prayer writing, singing, art, interpreting symbols.

## VOCABULARY

Forgiveness, Prodigal Son, Jesus, choice, sin, consequence, sorry, sign of peace, St. Francis of Assisi, sign of the cross, stole, priest.

## ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** know that there are times when forgiveness needs to be given and received. They will be able to describe the parable of the Prodigal Son and the story of the sinful woman, and explain what they teach us about God's forgiveness and the chances he gives us to change. They will understand that everyone makes choices and be able to differentiate between good or bad ones, identifying possible consequences of both. They will also understand the need to say sorry and will be able to identify ways of showing sorrow and forgiveness.

A.T.1    A.T.2

1a        1a  
1b        1b  
            1c  
            1d

**Less able children will** know that we sometimes need to be forgiven for things we have done and to forgive others for things they have done. They will also understand the need to say sorry.

1a        1b

**More able children will** have a greater understanding of the giving and receiving of forgiveness and the effect this can have in our lives. They will be able to explain the consequences of making bad choices for themselves and others.

2a        2b  
2b        2d  
2c

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**L1** Recognise love shown to them and to explore opportunities to show love towards others.

**Ch3** Opportunities today to live and share life following the example of Jesus.

**C6** Hear and explore Gospel Accounts of how Jesus gave individuals the chance to change.

**L2** Hear about, recognise and explore ways in which they are free to choose.

- Share with the children some stories about forgiveness being given and times when forgiveness was not shown.
- Explore with the children the importance of being a forgiving person.
- What does it feel like to be forgiven? When have you needed forgiveness? Have you ever found it hard to forgive somebody?
- Revise the Parable of the Prodigal Son and how that parable tells us that God is always forgiving.
- Divide the story (presented either in pictures or text or both) onto separate cards. In groups/pairs get the children to hold up the part of the story where someone makes a bad decision, where someone says sorry, where forgiveness is shown.
- Discuss the story in detail. Which characters do something wrong? What do they do? Are they both sorry for what they do?
- Imagine you are the older brother working in the fields. What would you say to your father when you found out that your younger brother was back? Would you be angry? Why?
- Imagine your meeting with your younger brother, will you be as forgiving as your father?
- Share the story of the stoning of the sinful woman, *John 7:53* (use a text which has been modified), with the children.
- Discuss the story. Why was Jesus' reaction unusual? What would the crowd have thought?
- Role-play the story.
- Prepare questions in order to Hot Seat Jesus, the woman, the crowd, the disciples.
- Have pictures of all the characters including the disciples with speech bubbles saying "I felt ..... when I first saw the woman", "I felt ..... when Jesus spoke to the crowd." Have a word bank available so that children can select appropriate words, e.g. angry, ashamed, astonished, etc.
- Explore with the children the choices they have to do something that is right or wrong.
- Can the children recall examples from their own lives when the choices they have made?
- Reflect with the children on the consequences of their wrong choices.
- Introduce the word "sin" to describe those things that people do or fail to do that are wrong.
- Give children a scenario where someone has to make a choice (e.g. a playground situation). Then give them different options which are placed in different areas of the classroom. The children go and stand by the option they think the person should take. The different groups can explain why they chose that particular option. Repeat this activity using different scenarios making the choices subtler each time.
- Prepare a flip over book where one extra piece of information is revealed on each page, e.g. Pg.1 David was being very naughty in class. What should Miss Smith do? Pg.2 David's Nan went into hospital last night and David hasn't had any sleep and no one's told him what's happening. What should Miss Smith do?
- Give children pictures of real life situations where children can illustrate an appropriate conclusion.
- To conclude this part, provide children pictures of real life situations where forgiveness needs to be given. Provide them with speech bubbles with captions. The speech bubbles should contain phrases like "I'm sorry", "Forgive me", "I forgive you" to stick on the appropriate characters.
- Let the children draw pictures with a written caption of situations from their own lives where they have made bad and good choices.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**L1** Of opportunities to give and receive love.

**Ch3** That the Church is men, women and children who try to follow the example of Jesus.

- Know the Parable of the Prodigal Son.
- Understand that through parables Jesus taught his disciples about the importance of forgiveness.
- Role-play and discuss important parts of this parable.

**C6** That Jesus brings the Good News of God's love and forgiveness; that God's love helps people to change and to choose what is good; that at times everyone needs to say sorry and ask forgiveness.

- Know that Jesus brought God's forgiveness to others.
- Understand some reasons why he forgave the sinful woman.

**L2** That choices affect ourselves and others.

- Know that we have opportunities sometimes to choose right from wrong.
- Understand some of the consequences of wrong choices.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

continued...

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

- Write sorry prayers on purple paper to put on the prayer table.
- If children need/want to say a sorry prayer light a purple candle.
- Develop the idea of the “sign of peace.” What do we do at Mass to show that we want to offer peace to all those around us?
- Encourage children to use the sign of peace and say the words when situations in their own lives have been resolved.
- Introduce the children to the words of the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. “Lord make me an Instrument of your peace.”
- Work with the children to create their own version of this prayer. Provide them with a writing frame to add their own ideas for, “Where there is ..... Let me bring .....
- Link in the sign of the cross as a sign of peace, e.g. final blessing at Mass.
- Learn some sorry and forgiveness hymns ask the children to identify words and phrases that speak of God’s love and forgiveness.
- Give the children long strips of paper to design a stole for your priest using the colours and symbols for being sorry and forgiveness.
- Leave a basket of sorry/I forgive you cards which the children have already decorated in shades of purple. Let the children give these to each other when appropriate situations arise.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

- Children to know the importance of prayers of sorrow.
- Understand that the sign of peace can also be a sign of forgiveness.
  
- Know the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi.
- Understand the need to seek God's help in making the right choices.

# RELATED SCRIPTURE

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

## OTHER LINKS

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use the Prayer of St. Francis and the version that the children write.
- Use “sorry” prayers regularly in prayer time.

## 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?**