



YEAR

2

UNIT G

LENT

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop children’s knowledge and understanding of the Season of Lent and the importance of the theme of forgiveness during this time.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning about forgiveness in Year 1.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children have:

- some knowledge of the Season of Lent
- heard the parable of the Lost Sheep.

SKILLS

Group discussion, observation, text level work, empathetic writing, thinking, letter writing, interpreting symbols, role-play.

VOCABULARY

Lent, forgiveness, Ash Wednesday, parable, shepherd, sin, reconciliation, confessional, Our Father.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will know the importance of Jesus’ teaching about forgiveness. Be able to express the difficulties associated with being a forgiving person. Some understanding of how we experience forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.	2a 2b 2c	2a 2b 2d
Less able children will know the importance of forgiveness in Jesus’ teaching. Be able to recall some of the things Jesus taught about forgiveness.	1a 1b	1a 1b 1d
More able children will have a greater understanding of the need to receive God’s forgiveness and the qualities of a forgiving person. Be able to appreciate how the Sacrament of Reconciliation can help people experience God’s forgiveness.	3a 3b 3c	3a 3b 3d

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C3 Become familiar with some ways the Church celebrates major seasons of the liturgical year.

C5 Become familiar with signs and symbols used by the Church.

C7 To hear, use and join in prayers from Scripture and Tradition.

C10 To hear about and explore ways in which people pray in church.

- Introduce children to the Season of Lent with a special Shrove Tuesday celebration. Explain that this celebration originates from medieval times as a way of preparing for Lent, and as a time of serious reflection and prayer.
 - Lent is a period of 40 days beginning with Ash Wednesday. What is the Liturgical colour of the Season? Which other Season has the same colour? Why do you think that they might have the same colour?
 - Burn some palms from last Palm Sunday and explain that these are used on Ash Wednesday.
 - Explain that hundreds of years ago when Christians wanted to receive God's forgiveness, for something they had done wrong, they covered themselves with ashes.
 - Today Christians receive ashes on Ash Wednesday to think about needing forgiveness and wanting to change to become more like Jesus.
 - Talk to the children about different times in their own lives when they might have needed forgiveness. Create mind maps.
 - Jesus taught his disciples that God was a forgiving Father.
 - Share with children the parable of the lost sheep.
 - Go through the text and highlight what the shepherd does and what the sheep do.
 - What did the shepherd risk in going to find the one lost sheep?
 - Can you find this part in the text?
 - Do you think it was easy for the shepherd to find the lost sheep. What would he have used to help him?
 - Imagine you were the shepherd. What would you have said when you found your lost sheep?
 - Write your story as the shepherd or the lost sheep.
 - Explain to the children that the wrong actions we deliberately do are called sins.
 - How do you feel when you know you have done something wrong?
 - How do you feel when you should have done something and you didn't?
 - When we sin we are a little like the lost sheep, and God is like the shepherd always wanting to find us and forgive us.
 - Make a shepherd's staff and children to write prayers asking for forgiveness that can be attached to it.
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- Jesus taught his disciples that forgiveness is very important. Share the story with the children about Peter asking Jesus how many times he should forgive his brother.
 - What do you think Jesus meant by telling Peter this very big number?
 - Create words and phrases for display that reflect the need to be a forgiving people.
 - Is it always easy to forgive? When do you find it hard to forgive others? What do you have to do to show you are ready to forgive?
 - What is it like to be forgiven for something you have done that is wrong?
 - Imagine you are Jesus. Write a letter to Peter explaining why it is so important to forgive.
 - Share with the children the parable of the unforgiving servant.
 - Role-play the parable.
 - Describe what the Master and the unforgiving servant are like using words from the text.
 - What is Jesus teaching about forgiveness?
 - Create a "Wanted" poster for the unforgiving servant.
 - Look at the words of the "Our Father." What do they tell us about forgiveness?
 - Create a dictionary of forgiveness words.
 - Children to look at pictures of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
 - Revise the definition for a Sacrament.
 - Explain that this is a special moment when we celebrate God's forgiveness.
 - Visit church to see the Confessional.
 - Work with the children to prepare a special Reconciliation liturgy for sometime during the season of Lent.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C3 Know the stories and events that surround the major Feasts of the Church year.

C5 Of the significance and variety of signs and symbols in their own lives and in the life of the Church.

- Know that Lent is a period of 40 days when Christians prepare to celebrate Easter.
- Know that it is a season when Christians think about forgiveness.
- Understand some of the reasons we might need to receive God's forgiveness.

- Write a forgiveness prayer.
- Know some of the teachings of Jesus about forgiveness (e.g. The lost sheep).
- Understand that the parable teaches us about God forgiving his people.
- Be able to write and retell this parable, and explain its meaning.

- Know that it is difficult sometimes to forgive.
- Know that Jesus taught his disciples to forgive other people who hurt them (e.g. The parable of the unforgiving servant).
- Take part in a Reconciliation liturgy.

C7 Of some traditional prayers of the Church; of how to pray together.

C10 Know that people pray in a variety of ways in church.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Make a display of Shrove Tuesday celebrations.

Create a lent display using ashes and liturgical colours for lent.

Children to take on the role of a storyteller. Ask them to think of the things they would need to be a good storyteller. Use props and language of a storyteller to describe the setting of the story and the thoughts and feelings of the shepherd and the lost sheep.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Lk. 15: 1-7 – The Parable of the Lost Sheep.

Mt. 18: 23-35 – The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

OTHER LINKS

Food Technology: Links with a celebration of Shrove Tuesday.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use lots of the Lenten symbols and make sure they are displayed on the prayer focus.
- Prayers asking for God's forgiveness are important for this unit of work.
- The Our Father as a prayer asking for forgiveness.

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?