

# 8. Forgiveness

**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are reflecting on some important words of Jesus in the ‘Sermon on the Mount’, which Christians call the ‘Beatitudes’. We are using some of the wider themes in Jesus’ words to help us to think about the attitudes we have towards each other – and the ways in which your own school’s vision and values helps to shape this into your community.



### How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?

Many of the qualities expressed in Jesus’ words will be familiar values for your school community, so we encourage you to link each week’s collective worship to your school vision – and the way that you live this out through your values. Today we are thinking about Jesus’ words about forgiveness. We are going to revisit a story that we used in the Spring term theme this year, about Jesus and a woman who needed forgiveness. You will have your own school language for talking about forgiveness, so do use what works best for you!

### Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today’s script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **There are also some ideas for reflective activities / ideas to ponder for use in your reflective areas for this term, listed at the end of the script along with a handy wall chart to print each week for your reflective area. You can find all these as a separate file in our resources area, which may make it easier for teachers to print and use in their classrooms.**
- **Reflective prayer activity:** this week, you will need large clear vases filled with water and soluble vitamin tablets broken in half. *If you can source lemon or lime flavour you will need to change the water less frequently than with the orange ones!*
- **NB Adults should be aware that pupils may want to talk about their hurt feelings. This activity could lead to some safeguarding issues being disclosed, and professional help sought.**

### Gathering:

**Slide 1:** Use these gathering words, which will be the same each week.



- **Leader:** We are here together
- **ALL:** May our attitudes make our school community a happy place today.

### Engaging:

- **Slide 2:** Today we are going to be hearing about some more words from the Beatitudes, about forgiveness. (Some of you might see also some connections with last week’s theme of treating others fairly, showing justice...)
- **Slide 3:** We’re going to start straight away with a story from the life of Jesus, a story that some of you may remember from last year!....
- When people do things that are wrong, it is very easy for us to point the finger at them and want them to be punished. The Bible tells a story of how Jesus behaved when a woman who had done wrong was brought to him.
- **Slide 4:** One day, Jesus was teaching in the temple courts – and as usual, many people had gathered to listen to him. Some Jewish leaders brought a woman to him, and pushed her in front of him. ‘Teacher,’ they said. ‘This woman has committed the worst sin ever. Our law says that she should be severely punished. What do you say about it all?’ But they were really trying to get Jesus into trouble.
- **Slide 5:** But Jesus didn’t say anything. He didn’t wag his finger at her, or speak angrily to her, or tell her off.... Not a word.... Nothing!
- **Slide 6:** Instead, he bent down and doodled in the dust with his finger. Now Jesus could see what the leaders couldn’t, which was the woman’s heart – a heart that was desperate to be forgiven, not blamed. You could almost touch the anger building in the leaders who were waiting for Jesus’ response. *Why* didn’t he reply? How *dare* he ignore them? They demanded an answer, again... and again....and again.
- **Slide 7:** Eventually, Jesus stood up and faced the leaders. He spoke to them, and not to her: ‘If any one of you can honestly say that you have never done anything wrong, then you can be first in the queue



with your stone.’ And then he went back to drawing in the dust. One by one, the leaders drifted away, until just Jesus was left, with the woman standing beside him.

- **Slide 8:** Now Jesus spoke. His face was kind and his voice was soft. ‘Woman, where are the men who accused you? Is there no-one left to blame you?’

‘No sir,’ she replied.

‘Then neither do I,’ Jesus said to her. ‘Go now, and live in a better way, a way that pleases God.’

- **Slide 9:** When Jesus spoke to the people on the mountain, he said **‘Those who show forgiveness to others are truly happy. Forgiveness will be given to them.’**

**I wonder how these words link with our story?** [ask a few children to explain their ideas, if time allows]

### Slide 10: Responding and words for worship

Let’s think together now about Jesus’ words – and his actions in the story about the woman.

....I wonder what was unfair in this story....

....I wonder who showed forgiveness?....

...I wonder how the woman’s life was changed by Jesus’ words?...

...I wonder what the leaders said to each other as they went away?...

....I wonder what these things might show us about forgiveness this week?.....

Forgiving isn’t always easy, and although we don’t know what happened after the leaders left Jesus and the woman, I hope that they learned something for themselves about what’s important in God’s Kingdom. Jesus taught the crowds that forgiving others is important – because it helps to rebuild broken relationships, but also because some day, we might need others to forgive us.

....I wonder if you’ve found this to be true here in school, or in your homes?....

Take some time now to think, reflect or pray about the things we’ve shared today.....

**Prayer:** Now I’m going to use some words to help us to pray: if you want to make the prayer your own, then please do join in with the words

**Slide 11:** ‘May we forgive and be forgiven...’

**Slide 12:** When others hurt our feelings

**Slide 13:** ‘May we forgive and be forgiven...’

**Slide 14:** When friendships get messed up

**Slide 15:** ‘May we forgive and be forgiven...’

**Slide 16:** However hard it is.....

**Slide 17:** ‘May we forgive and be forgiven...’

**Slide 18:** Amen

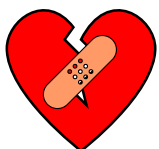
**Sending:** Slide 19

**Leader:** As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...

**All:** *May we forgive and be forgiven.*

**To listen to / sing:**

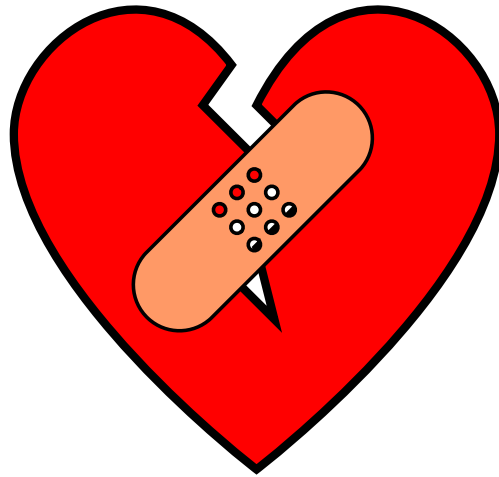
[The Kindness Song](#) or [Let’s be kind](#) (NBD)



### Slide 20: Reflective areas

This activity gives the pupils the opportunity to think about people who have hurt them. This may need some adult support to ensure that children have the opportunity to talk if they want to. Sometimes people do and say things to hurt us on purpose. Take a vitamin tablet and think about those hurt feelings. Then drop it in the water. As its fizzes away let those hurt feelings go, imagine forgiving the person and the hurt disappearing. Encourage the pupils to watch until the table has completely dissolved. As the water changes colour, it’s a reminder that actions often have consequences and that the consequences may go on even after the person has been forgiven. Forgiveness itself may need to be an ongoing, conscious process. You will need to change the water regularly because it becomes difficult to see the fizzing as the tablets dissolve.





*...Jesus said to the people 'Those who show forgiveness to others are truly happy. Forgiveness will be given to them.'*



**We all get hurt. Sometimes people do and say things to hurt us on purpose. Sometimes they don't mean it, but it hurts anyway.**

**Has anyone hurt you?**



**It can be difficult when someone has hurt you. Forgiveness is hard. Talk to someone you trust if you need help.**



**If you want to, take a vitamin tablet and think about those hurt feelings. Then drop it in the water. As it fizzes away, let those hurt feelings go; imagine forgiving the person and the hurt disappearing.**





**The Topsy-Turvy, 'How-to-be'-at(t)itudes**

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