



Cumbria Bible Challenge

Finding Forgiveness Collective Worship

“Today we are going to have the opportunity to reflect upon forgiveness. “

Clench your fists up as tight as you can. Now turn to the person next to you– and shake their hands– but don’t undo your hands. Can you do it?

Mahatma Ganghi said this.. “People with clenched fists cannot shake hands. The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”

The Message:

I’m going to tell you a story about two children Josie and Jake. They had been friends for a long while– it started in nursery school and now they were in year 3 and still friends.

Josie was grumpy this one particular morning. She had a bit of an accident on the way to school and it left her feeling grumpy all morning.

Her teacher Mrs Donaldson was talking about New Years resolutions, because it was just after Christmas and she was asking the children to write their new year promises on a luggage tag and tie it onto a balloon. She noticed Josie wasn’t doing it, so she went over to see what was going on.

Josie was cross, and told Mrs Donaldson that she had wet tights because Jake had rode his bike past her on the way to school and had splashed her. She then burst out crying and said that Sarah had sat in her place at break time too.

“Oh dear,” said Mrs Donaldson– “I can see why you are feeling sad”.

“Let’s stop for a moment children”– she said, “I want to talk to you about starting a new year afresh. We cannot start a New Year hanging on to the old year. It would weigh us down. We need to find ways of putting things down or ending things well.

Josie has started her day badly today. Imagine if she held on to all these disappointments and grumpy feelings tomorrow and the next day, and into February, and even right up to next Christmas. How do you think she would be feeling by then?’

Josie laughed. ‘Very very cross,’ she said quietly.

‘I think we would all be feeling extremely cross by then,’ laughed Mrs Donaldson. ‘Can anyone suggest what Josie should do?’

Can you think of anything that could have been done?

It was suggested that some sorry’s needed to be said, and then Josie needed to decide if she was going to forgive Jake and Sarah. She decided she wanted to, so instead of writing her new years promises on the tag– Josie wrote their names.

At the end of the lesson after all the tags had been attached to the balloons they were all let off into the sky. Josie watched as her balloon rose high into the sky. She noticed she felt better.



Reflection:

I wonder how many of us forget to forgive. Perhaps we hold grudges like Josie. These will make us feel grumpy and sad. Forgiveness is not just a kind thing to do for someone else, but it also helps us to feel better too. I wonder if there is anyone you'd like to forgive? Take a moment to think about that.

We're going to pray together in a moment, and we're going to say The Lord's Prayer. There is a line in it which says- forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Forgive us God when we make mistakes, and get things wrong– and help us to be forgiving to others too.

God wants us to be forgiving people. Perhaps when we are saying the prayer together, you can think if there are any people you need to forgive, and you could say their names quietly in your mind.

Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer. (leave a pause at the forgiveness line for the children to respond)

Worship song:

'Lord you forgive' Nick Harding or 'Be kind and compassionate' John Hardwick