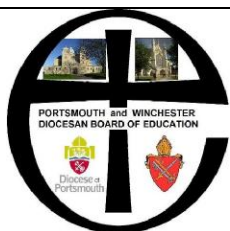




PORTSMOUTH and WINCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION



Collective Worship 1 – 6 September 2011

Matthew 18:21-35
A Story About Forgiveness

Matthew 18:21-35 - The Message (MSG)

A Story About Forgiveness

21 At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, "Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

22 Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

23-25 "The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

26-27 "The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

28 "The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!'

29-31 "The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

32-35 "The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

The Worship – Major theme 'IN'

Music on Entry

A possibility might be *Forgiven not Forgotten* by the Corrs

Start the worship with a Christian Greeting

e.g. Lighting a Candle and saying "The Lord be with you." "*And also with you.*"

There may be singing

Music and words for the song 'Seven Times Seven' can be found here, but the children may not know this. <http://patamb.supanet.com/lambs/seven.html> . The score can be found at the end of this page. The children might know a suitable song already.

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The Story

Use the Bible story, tell it using your own words, in as short and accessible form as you can.

- Ask the children about times when they have been upset, hurt, wronged by others.

There is no suggestion that one should use all the questions – they are prompts to get the children to think about the issue and the Christian view of how we should behave.

- How does it feel?
- How do you want to react?
- What are the 'rules' or 'values' that our school stands by that guide us?
- How do we do this?
- How hard is it?

You might get a child mentioning the anniversary of 9-11.

The Bible story tell us that a Christian is told that forgiveness has no limits – just like God forgives us without constraint – but that doesn't mean we can do wrong without consequences.

Prayer

Ask the children if one of them would like to try to put into a few words the heart of this story.

Below are two prayers from the Culham Website.

Let's be quiet for a moment. Let's think about a time when someone has done something bad to you. Perhaps you've been called a horrible name - or perhaps you've had something precious stolen from you. In the quietness think about your feelings - your sense of hurt and your sense of anger. Think about what God might want you to do. Does he want you to brood on the hurt and plot revenge? Or does he want you to try and overcome your anger?

*Loving God,
Help me to speak the truth and to live an honest life. Give me courage to make good choices and turn away from lies and doing wrong. Help me to ask for forgiveness when I have done wrong and to forgive others when I have been upset.
Amen*

Say the Lord's Prayer and prepare the children for the line 'forgive us our trespasses . . . '

Leaving the hall

As you work and play today – remember that Jesus asked us to forgive more times than is easy. It can be quite a challenge to live a Christian life – but being forgiven and forgiving is perhaps better than not forgiving and being forgiven. Try and think about this today.

“The Lord be with you.” “And also with you.”

Optional evaluation using the 4 questions with a small group of children.

1. Tell me one thing you liked about the Collective Worship you have just been in?
 - a. This is a personal idea just about your feelings or thoughts.
2. Tell me one thing that would have made it better for you?
 - a. This is a personal idea just about your feelings or thoughts.
3. Tell me what it was about?
 - a. This is about factual recall.
4. Tell me why did the person leading the worship do what they did? (How you phrase this depends on the age of the pupils)
 - a. So what was the point?
 - b. What do you take away?
 - c. What do we learn about how we live our lives?

Patrick Ambrose

Seven Times Seven

Adrian Haw

Lively $\text{♩} = 172$

The musical score is written for piano in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of seven systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Pe-ter said to Je - sus I need ad-vice from you If my bro-ther's nau-ghty please tell me what to do. Shoud I for-give him sev-en times, or one, or three, or two or should I just ig-nore him or sulk or be bad too. He said sev-en times sev-en times sev-en times sev-en sev-en times sev-en and sev-en times a- gain Sev-en times sev - en times sev-en times sev - en then you canstill be friends. Al-though my friends are sor - ry, It's ve - ry plain to see I find it hard to". The score includes various chords such as Em, C, G, D7, B7, Am, and A. The tempo is marked as Lively with a quarter note equal to 172 beats per minute.

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34 Em A D7 B7 Em

love them when they are bad to me. I know I should for - give them,

39 C D7 Bm Em C# D7 G

and that will set them free I'll fol-low the ex-am - ple that Je-sus gaveto me He

45 C A

said sev-en times seven times sev-en times sev en sev - en times sev en and sev-en times a gain

49 G Em Am D7

Sev - en times sev - en times sev - en times sev - en then we can still

52 G Am D7 G

be friends. Then we can still be friends.

And now when I am naughty
 I know just what to do
 I kneel and pray to Jesus
 And ask to start anew
 I ask him to forgive me
 I promise to be true
 He gives me lots of chances
 He loves me through and through