**Forgiveness – How many times?**

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**Teacher Notes**

This collective worship gives an opportunity for everyone to think about the Christian value of forgiveness.

**Slide 1 – Title slide**

**Slides 2 – 8**

Use these slides to take the children through a real-life event that is a good stimulus to talk about learning from our mistakes (although it is widely considered to be a photoshopped sequence of events, therefore not accurate, who knows?!). Do we learn from our mistakes?

**Slide 9**

Use each question to help all acknowledge that no one is perfect, and we all make mistakes and poor choices (it is important to emphasise that we are talking about mistakes to do with our behaviour/attitude, not about our learning – of course it is not wrong to make mistakes in our learning, although we still need to learn from them). Discuss everyone’s attitude towards forgiveness. Is it an important concept for everyone? Sometimes, like in the initial story, we repeat similar mistakes and bad choices. Should we keep being forgiven; should we keep forgiving?

**Slide 10**

Matthew 18 v21-22

**21Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "LORD, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" 22Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.**

Read this passage taken from Matthew’s gospel – Jesus was talking to his disciples about forgiveness using the parable, **‘The Unmerciful Servant’**. You could extend this worship by including the telling of the parable if you have time.

Discuss what Jesus meant by his statement. The large number he used was a way of emphasising that we should keep forgiving, not stop when we get to seventy-seven times! It would be sensible to discuss that forgiveness is not always easy and that it can sometimes take a while before we are ready to forgive someone.

*\*\*Optional, digging deeper – Does everyone deserve forgiveness? Should all wrong-doing be forgiven?*

**Slide 11**

Use the image on **slide 11** as a focal point while reading the following **reflections**:

We are going to think for a few moments about any mistakes or bad choices that we have made.

* What have you done that you wish you hadn’t?
* Now think about people who have hurt you – can you forgive them and be friends again?
* God promises that He will always listen to us because He loves us and wants the best for us.
* Christians believe that when we say sorry, which often takes courage, God will always forgive us.
* Can we do the same, and forgive those who have hurt us?

**Closing prayer**

Invite everyone to join in saying the Lord’s Prayer as displayed on **slide 12.** Before you say the prayer, draw attention to the forgiveness element that reflects the teaching Jesus gave in the passage from Matthew’s Gospel shared earlier in the worship.