

31.2

Accepting apologies and saying I'm sorry

Based on Episode 31: Senators Only



Learning objectives:

- To know what it means to forgive someone
- To know how to show that you are sorry as well as saying so

RE Links:

England:

2b) *respond to the challenges of commitment both in their own lives and within religious traditions, recognising how commitment to a religion is shown in a variety of ways*

Isle of Man:

4Fii) *Parables of Jesus – Why does it help to say sorry? Forgiveness.*

5B) *Different forms of prayer – How to say sorry and why you say sorry.*

5F) *How do the beliefs of Christians influence their actions? How do we forgive? (QCA – 5D)*

Northern Ireland:

The revelation of God: The life of Jesus

Scotland:

Christianity: Values and issues: RME 2-02a

Catholic schools: Catholic Christianity:

Reign of God: RERC 1-22a / RERC 2-22a

Wales:

the importance that religion places on personal relationships and concern for others

Stimulus material:

Friends and Heroes DVD Episode 31: Senators Only. *The lesson is based on the second half of this episode from 08:34 mins when the Friends of Jesus are escaping on a boat.*

Bible reference for the main story:

Jesus and Zacchaeus the tax collector
Luke 19:1-10

Other resources required:

Copies of Worksheet 31.2a and 31.2b – enough for one per pair of pupils

Introduction:

Before beginning the first activity, be sure that the pupils understand what it is to say that they are sorry, to apologise and that they understand what it means to forgive someone.

Ask the pupils to work in pairs to read the short story on Worksheet 31.2a and to think together about the questions.

Once the pupils have read the story and thought about the questions, structure a short class discussion about the questions.

Draw out the following points:

1. Who has to say sorry in this story?
Kiera - for being unkind to Jack.

Continued overleaf...

2. Do you think Kiera really is sorry?
She seems to be – she has apologised without being asked and is aware of what she has done to upset Jack.
3. How would we know that Kiera was actually sorry?
It's hard to tell from the story – if she really is sorry, then her behaviour should change to show that she is sorry.
4. If you were Jack and Hana, would you be able to forgive her?
The pupils will have different answers in this section – being sensitive to different responses, encourage pupils to think that it is important to forgive someone, not to carry a grudge and not to continue bringing an issue up.

Activities:

Explain that in today's extract from Friends and Heroes, the Bible story that is told by Antonius tells the tale of someone who has to say sorry for his behaviour. Ask the pupils to look out for the character and to try and spot what he has done wrong and how he shows that he is sorry by changing his behaviour. Show Friends and Heroes DVD Episode 31: Senators Only from 08:34mins when the Friends of Jesus are escaping on a boat.

Following the extract, ask the pupils these questions:

- Is the Bible story an Old or a New Testament story? (New)
- How do you know? (story includes Jesus)
- Who was the character who had to learn to say sorry? (Zacchaeus)
- Why did he have to apologise? (he had been cheating people of their money – ensure the pupils understand that he wasn't wrong to collect the peoples' taxes – it was the fact that he was cheating them that was wrong)
- Why did Zacchaeus climb the sycamore tree? (so he could get a better view of Jesus – he couldn't see and people hadn't let him pass through the crowds)
- Why were the people so upset that Jesus was spending time with Zacchaeus? (Zacchaeus was a cheat)
- Zacchaeus was so amazed by Jesus's love for him that he showed the people that he was sorry for how he had behaved – what did he do? (gave away half the things he owned and repaid people four times what he had cheated them of – emphasise that Zacchaeus changed his behaviour because he was forgiven)
- Explain that Christians believe that because God forgives them it is important that they say sorry when they have done something wrong and forgive other people who have hurt them.

Ask the pupils to think about the characters in today's episode.

- Which character would be the hardest to forgive?
- Why?

Ask the pupils to look at the possible endings to Jack and Hana's story on Worksheet 31.2b – which ending shows that Kiera is genuinely sorry? (ending 2)

- How can the children show Kiera that they have forgiven her? (by continuing to talk to her, maintaining the friendship and not referring to her unkindness)

Tell the pupils that sometimes people may ask them to 'forgive and forget'. Explain that it is important to be able to forgive other people but sometimes it can be hard to forget what they have done. They shouldn't feel bad if they can't forget what has happened when someone has been unkind to them but should try hard not to let it affect their relationship with that person.

Reflection / Personal search / Response:

Ask the pupils to think of a time when they have had to say sorry to someone for something that they have done. Did they really mean that they were sorry or were they saying sorry because they had been asked to do so? Did their behaviour after the incident show that they were sorry or not?

Give the pupils a few minutes to consider how they can apologise more effectively when they have done something wrong.

Ask the pupils to think about how they show that they forgive someone who has done something wrong? What could they do? (e.g. smile, give a hug, etc.)

Assessment / reporting:

Can pupils explain what it means to say sorry and to show that they are sorry?

Can they suggest how to show someone forgiveness?

Links to other subject areas:

SEAL - Say no to bullying; Getting on and falling out – dealing with people who are unkind/bullying, saying sorry and accepting apologies

Creative/other - Anti-bullying week

Name:

Date:

Worksheet 31.2a

Read the story and answer the questions at the end

The bitter winter wind was whistling around the playground as Hana and Jack wandered reluctantly from the warmth of the classroom and out into the midday sun. Hana could see that something was bothering Jack, but the packed morning timetable hadn't yet allowed her to find out what was wrong with her friend. Other children, zipping their coats up and pulling on their gloves, barged past the two friends in their hurry to get on to the playground.

"Jack, you seem sad today . . ." Hana began, looking at her friend. "Do you want to . . ."

Hana's kind words were soon forgotten when Kiera pushed past the two children, laughing. "You two are always together!" she teased "haven't you got any other friends? Don't know why I'm asking really – we all know you two are too boring to have any real friends."

Laughing and teasing all the time, Kiera ran round and round the two children as they tried to walk down the path onto the playground. "Did you know your coat's dirty and your socks don't match?" she continued pointing at Jack's feet.

Plucking up her courage, Hana turned to Kiera and taking a deep breath replied "Stop being so unkind Kiera. We can be friends with each other if we want to and I don't care about things like the clothes people wear. You're behaving like a bully!"

Stunned, Kiera turned to look at Hana. Usually she would have a smart reply for anyone who challenged her but Hana's words had hit her hard. She thought about the lessons they had been doing about bullying and stopped, unsure of what to do next.

After several long seconds she opened her mouth. "I'm sorry Jack," she said, "I'm sorry for saying unkind things to you". With that, she turned and walked slowly onto the playground, ahead of the other two children, who simply smiled at each other.

1. Who has to say sorry in this story?
2. Do you think Kiera really is sorry?
3. How would we know that Kiera was actually sorry?
4. If you were Jack and Hana, would you be able to forgive her?



Name:

Date:

Worksheet 31.2b

Which ending to the story shows that Kiera is really sorry?

Ending 1

Hana and Jack continued to walk along the dark tarmac, until they got to the playground. Just as they were rounding the corner by the football posts, Kiera came running up to Jack, trying desperately not to laugh. "What's wrong with your eyesight Jack?" she cried "Can't you see that black and blue socks don't go together?"

Ending 2

Feeling much better, they continued to walk onto the playground, dodging the footballs that had begun to fly through the crisp air. As they walked they glimpsed Kiera laughing and talking with a large group of friends. She turned, smiled and waved. "Want to play Blocky 1, 2, 3 at lunchtime?" she called out. "We'll need some extra people to make it a better game!"

Ending 3

"Well, that wasn't what I expected to happen, Hana – I can't believe you stood up to her!" stammered Jack, staring in admiration at his friend.

"I just remembered what Mrs Mahal told us about being brave in our lesson yesterday," replied Hana, smiling back at her friend. "I hope Kiera manages to remember it too," she added thoughtfully.

Just then, Mandeep came running up to the children, tears welling in his eyes.

"What's wrong Mandeep?" asked Hana, her brow furrowing with concern.

"It's Kiera," he replied "she's been teasing me about my new glasses."

Hana and Jack exchanged a look – perhaps Kiera hadn't managed to remember Mrs Mahal's wise words.

