

10 Friendship and forgiveness

Based on Episode 10: Horseplay

Learning objectives:

- To learn about forgiveness in the story of Joseph and his brothers
- To consider our relationships with our siblings or very close friends

RE Links:

- England:** 1b) *Ways of life and . . . how these stem from, and are closely connected with, beliefs and teachings.*
2b) *Respond to the challenges of commitment both in their own lives and within religious traditions.*
- Isle of Man:** 3F) *What is faith and what difference does it make?*
4E) *Teachings of Jesus.*
5E) *Rules to live by - forgiveness.*
6F) *Worship and the community.*
- Northern Ireland:** *The Revelation of God: God and the Bible.*
Morality: Respect for each other.
The early Church: Beginning and growth.
- Scotland:** *Sacred writings, stories and key figures.*
Moral values and attitudes.
Relationships and moral values.
- Wales:** *Religious stories.*
The importance that religion places on personal relationships and concern for others.
Express their own feelings and opinions through various means.

Stimulus material:

Friends and Heroes DVD episode 10: *Horseplay*

Bible references for the main stories:

Genesis 37:1-36
Acts 8:4-23

Other resources required:

Copies of Worksheet 10a and 10b

Introduction:

Explain that today's lesson is going to require the pupils to think about their relationships with their brothers and sisters, or if they do not have siblings, with a very close friend.

Divide the class into two groups:

- 1) Joseph's brothers
- 2) Joseph

Continued overleaf...

Taking input from the pupils, briefly recap the story of Joseph and his brothers. Allow the two groups two minutes to write down as many adjectives as possible that they could use to describe the other, e.g. the Joseph's brother group might write down: boastful, spoilt, dad's favourite, annoying, etc.

Feedback and discuss these ideas, recording some words and phrases on the board. Emphasise that despite the fact that they were brothers, Joseph and his siblings did not always get on well with each other.

Activities:

Ask the pupils to think about a time when they have fallen out with a sibling or a close friend. Ask the pupils to use Worksheet 10a to record in words or pictures how they felt when they fell out with a sibling or close friend.

How do your words and phrases compare to those on the board?

Draw out the idea that the experiences of Joseph and his brothers are similar to those that we experience with our siblings and friends today.

- 1) *How would Joseph have felt about his brothers when he first arrived in Egypt?*
- 2) *What did he do when he saw them again? (He saw they had changed and forgave them)*
- 3) *How did the brothers know that they were forgiven? (Joseph invited them all to live with him)*
- 4) *What do we need to do when we have a problem in one of our relationships? (forgive)*

Explain that Joseph needed God's help to forgive his brothers.

Who can we ask to help us to forgive people? (family, friends, teachers, God)

Ask pupils to record words and pictures on Worksheet 10a to show how they feel when they are forgiven for something they have done to hurt someone.

Allow the pupils to spend some time thinking about their relationships with their brothers/sisters or close friends. Encourage them to thank God for those relationships.

With Upper Key Stage 2 pupils, explore Joseph's role in the breakdown of his relationship with his brothers.

- 1) *What had he done to provoke and irritate them?*
- 2) *Do we provoke and irritate our brothers, sisters and friends?*

If time allows, ask pupils to use Worksheet 10b to write a brief letter to their brother/sister/friend thanking them for their friendship and detailing one or two things they are going to endeavour to do to be a better sibling/friend.

Reflection / Personal search / Response:

- 1) *What emotions does Rebecca feel towards her sister during the programme? (frustration, anger, worry, love)*
- 2) *Why is Rebecca so cross with Leah? (she loves her and does not want any harm to come to her)*

Even though Leah does something silly and Rebecca is cross with her, they still love each other very much. Rebecca was able to forgive Leah, just as Joseph forgave his brothers. Ask the pupils to think about their relationships:

Continued overleaf...

- 1) Is there anybody that they have hurt?
- 2) Do they need to ask anybody's forgiveness?

Allow the pupils to spend some time in the quiet considering these issues and how they might address them.

Assessment / reporting:

Can the pupils empathise with Joseph and his brothers?

Can they explain what forgiveness is and why it is so important in a relationship?

Links to other subjects:

PSHE – resolution of conflict


Name:

Date:

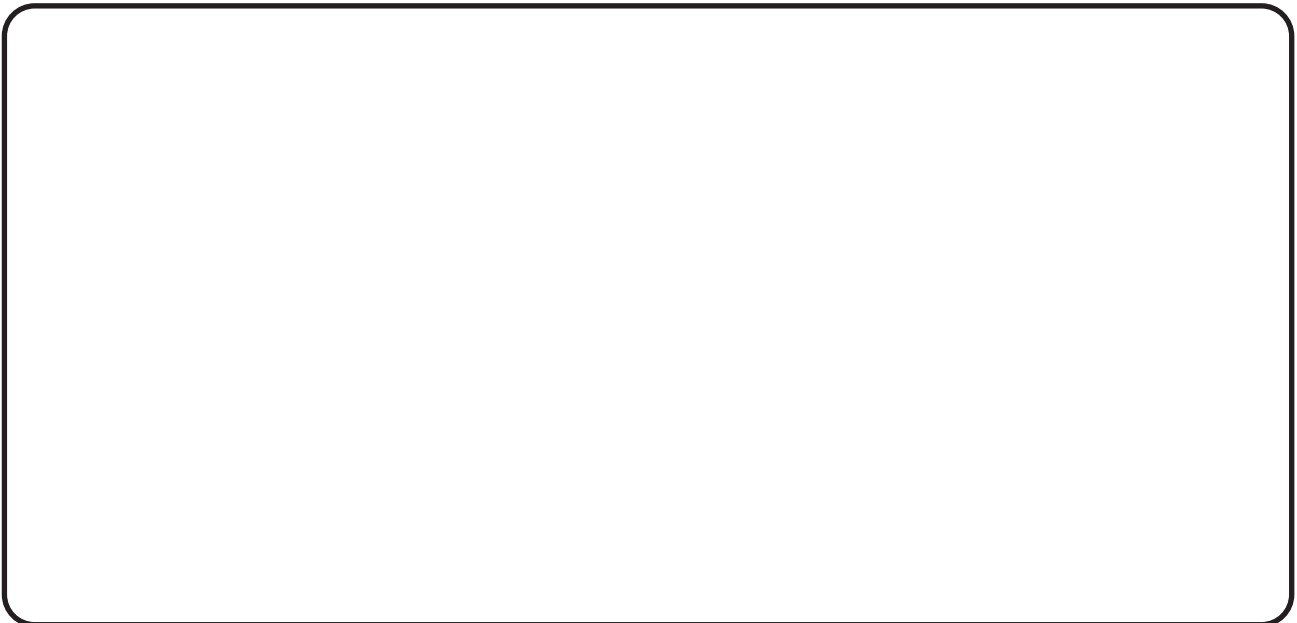
Friendship and forgiveness 10a

Thinking about our relationships

In the box below, write or draw words and pictures to describe how you feel when you have fallen out with a brother, sister or close friend.



In the box below, write or draw words and pictures to describe how you feel when you have been forgiven.



What difference do you notice between the words and pictures in each of the two boxes?

Name: _____

Date: _____



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Friendship and forgiveness 10b

Dear _____

Thank you for being my _____ . I'm really pleased

we are _____ because

I'm sorry for the times when I'm not as good a _____

_____ as I should be.

I'm going to try really hard to _____

With love from,
