



The Manor C of E Primary School

Values Newsletter Term 4: Forgiveness

This term's Bible story is 'The Lost Son' also known as 'The Prodigal Son'. It is a parable Jesus told to illustrate how God Forgives those who ask for it.



TALK TOGETHER about Forgiveness

Everyone makes mistakes, it's part of being human. Sometimes our mistakes hurt others and then we need to say sorry. Sometimes mistakes made by other people hurt us. When this happens we need to be able to **forgive**. **Forgiveness** can be difficult and costly but without it a new start is impossible.

Talk together about:

- A time when you needed to say sorry
- A time you didn't say sorry but wish you had
- A time when you had to **forgive** someone who had hurt or upset you
- How it feels when you are given a new start because someone has **forgiven** you

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"Without **forgiveness** there is no future.... If you can **forgive**, then you can move on and even help the person you are forgiving to become a better person"

Desmond Tutu



READ TOGETHER...

There once was a father who had two sons and who owned a large farm with many servants. One day the younger son asked his father for his inheritance so that he could go off and live his own life. The father agreed and split the money evenly between his two sons.

The younger son travelled far away, enjoyed his life and spent money without thinking of saving any of it. He was selfish, he didn't think of his family at all, and before he realised, all his money had gone!

The son was in trouble. He had no money and no place to live. He had nothing to eat, so he had to get a job. The only job he could find was feeding pigs. He didn't earn much at all and was so hungry he even tried to eat the food that the pigs were eating!

That night as he sheltered in the old barn with nothing to eat, the son thought about his family. He regretted wasting the money and felt ashamed that he had treated his father badly. Then he realised something. When he lived with his father, even the servants had more food than they needed, and now he was starving. At that moment he made a plan. He would go back to his father and ask for forgiveness. He would ask his father for a job as a servant so that at least he could have food and a place to stay.

His father had spotted him from a long way off and was so pleased to see him that he ran to him and threw his arms around him. His son hung his head in shame and begged for forgiveness, saying that he didn't deserve such a welcome. He tried to explain why he had come home but his father was so happy to see him that he ignored his request for a job and instead gave him a beautiful robe and asked the servants to prepare for a celebration saying, "My son was lost and now is found!"

When the older brother returned from working in the fields and found that his brother had returned penniless, he was angry and refused to go join the party. The father heard that he was upset, so he went to talk to him. The older son was hurt, "I have been working for you all these years and I've never disobeyed you. My brother has taken your money and squandered it and now he expects you to look after him!"

"His father replied, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. We must celebrate and be glad because your brother was lost and now he is found. He was dead and now he is alive!"

Aspire, Believe, Achieve
Shine Like Stars in the Sky
Philippians 2 v15

Lord God,

Jesus taught us that you are just like the Father in his story, forgiving all those who are truly sorry. He also taught us that we too should forgive others. Help us to forgive even when it is difficult.

Amen.

