



God's Reconciliation.

11-14's and 14-18's

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

- to understand what forgiveness means and to see how other people forgive
- to think about the link between us forgiving others and gaining forgiveness ourselves

RESOURCES

- Downloaded You Tube videos
 - Corrie Ten Boom interview
www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=038cuYe3Nis
 - 'Prodigal' an Animation,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbTK-mKxrAc
- Laptop, speakers and digital projector or suitable TV
- Copies of the Lord's Prayer for everyone
- A coin for each young person
- A lit candle or other symbol on a table.

25-30 minutes

Corrie Ten Boom interview

Before showing the video ask the following questions

- If you were arrested now for being a Christian, what one item would you take with you?
- Has your experience of forgiving others been a struggle, a journey, a decision or what?

Discuss what you have watched. Give the young people ample opportunity to raise issues which concern them. You may want to take the issues of persecution further and tease out how people learn to forgive so completely.

10-15 minutes

Discuss the following statements:

"A part of the key to entering into forgiveness is understanding. If one can understand why people behave as they do then often the road to forgiveness is opened. Not only is forgiveness essential for the health of society, it is also vital for our personal well-being. Bitterness is like a cancer that enters the soul. It does more harm to those that hold it than to those whom it is held against." *Terry Waite, CBE*

"Forgiveness is like putting down a burden that you really didn't need to carry in the first place." *RESTORE participant, HMP Guy's Marsh, 2008*
<http://theforgivenessproject.com/>

15-20 minutes

Say the Lord's Prayer together. Look specifically at the fourth phrase, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' (or a more modern version) In the Lord's Prayer we see a strong link between our forgiveness of others and God's forgiveness of us. We cannot expect God to forgive us while we are unwilling to forgive others. Forgiveness is a vital ingredient in every community – without it community falls apart.

Discuss the following in small groups then feedback to large group.

- Can you identify local communities or groups who are broken because of unforgiveness?
- Think of those against whom you hold a grudge or lack mercy. Name them and ask God to empower you as you seek to forgive them and wherever possible to be reconciled.
- Play the following song or use the You Tube video: Search for 'Prodigal' by Casting Crowns on Youtube, a useful modern song which might help to aid reflection.

'Prodigal' an Animation, on YouTube. www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbTK-mKxrAc

Prayer and Reflection

Give a coin to each young person. Ask them to imagine the face on it is someone they find it hard to forgive. Ask them to pray for that person and their relationship with them as they hold the coin carefully and firmly, in silence. Then, when they are ready, place the coin under a central lighted candle or other symbol.

When each has done this read Ephesians 2:1-10

Other resources for further exploration:

The Prodigal | A Jubilee Project Short Film

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlriAJnXQ6A>

Beyond forgiving.

Ginn Fourie and Letlapa Mphahlele form an unlikely team: a black atheist man and a white Christian woman. One has suffered directly from the actions of the other - both have been victims and risen beyond their pain. What brings them together is a profound story of both tragedy and hope. - See more at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=inghPuBNSEE

<http://www.unlikelyfriendsforgive.com/>

<http://beyontrightandwrong.com/project/about-the-stories/>

Beyond Right & Wrong presents the stories of people who have experienced loss and the stories of people who have caused that loss. From the Rwandan



Genocide to the Troubles in Northern Ireland to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, people from different sides of the violence have entrusted all of us with their stories—their anger or remorse, their pain, their paths to recovery.