



Can We Forgive Our Enemies?

Learning outcomes:

- To **describe** what forgiveness and reconciliation are
- To **explain** the significance of forgiveness and reconciliation
- To **evaluate** if it is easy to forgive our enemies

Starter:

What does it mean to forgive? Write down your answer.

Key words

- **Forgiveness** – showing compassion, and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong.
- **Reconciliation** – when individuals or groups restore friendly relations after conflict or disagreement.

Write these
definitions down!
Add an example
to each
definition.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJDqceiwR2U>

The Forgiveness Project is a charity that works worldwide on forgiveness and reconciliation. The Forgiveness Project uses storytelling to explore how ideas around forgiveness, reconciliation and conflict resolution can be used to impact positively on people's lives, through the personal testimonies of both victims and perpetrators of crime and violence.

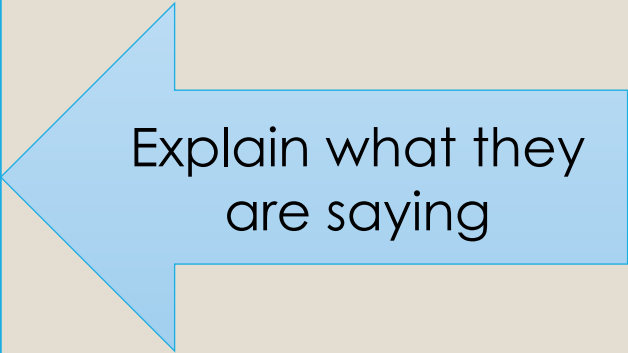


Watch the clip and answer the questions:

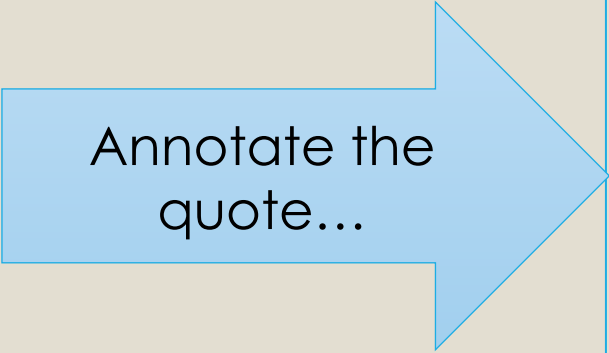
1. Summarise Mary's story.
2. What is the significance of forgiveness for Mary?
3. Explain the importance of reconciliation for Mary.

At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, “Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?” Jesus replied, “Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.”

(Matthew chapter 18 verses 21 – 22. The Message)



Explain what they are saying



Annotate the quote...

Jesus said “In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can’t get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God’s part.”

**(Matthew chapter 6 verses 14 – 15
The message)**

The Prodigal Son

There are many Christian teachings about forgiveness throughout the Bible.

We will look one of the teachings, this is known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

You need to:

- Take notes on the Prodigal Son (this will help you with the big task!)

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+prodological+son&adlt=strict&view=detail&mid=31AB63069BC27E287D2631AB63069BC27E287D26&&FORM=VRD GAR>

Do Buddhists believe in forgiveness?

Listen to the story told by Gelong Thubten (Meditation Teacher)

1. **Summarise** the **story** in your **own words**
2. What is the **moral** of the **story**?
3. What does it **tell us** about **Buddhist beliefs** on **forgiveness** and **reconciliation**?

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=forgiveness+buddhism&adlt=strict&view=detail&mid=956471AD65419601C548956471AD65419601C548&&FORM=VRDGAR>

Challenge!

Is it always possible to let go of resentment?
Why?

1. Watch the example clip of a chat show about forgiveness.
2. You will need to create your own chat show basing the topic around 'forgiveness' and encouraging 'reconciliation.'

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=jeremy+kyle+show+for+giveness&adlt=strict&view=detail&mid=BAA6AB247D7824CD784ABAA6AB247D7824CD784A&&FORM=VRDGAR>

To include:

1. A **description** of what has happened.
2. An **explanation** of why **forgiveness** and **reconciliation** is **important**.
3. An **evaluation** if it will **always** be **possible** to **forgive those** who have done you **wrong**.
4. A detailed script in **all books**.
5. **Religious quotes**

Who to include for the Lost Son:

1. The Lost Son
2. Father
3. Host
4. Mother?
5. Other son
6. Friends – the family or just the son

Who to include for The Forgiveness Project:

1. Mary Johnson
2. Oshea Israel
3. Host
4. Family of Mary Johnson
5. Family/friends of Oshea Israel
6. The son?!
7. Witnesses



Challenge 1!

Add in religious leaders to help with the forgiveness and reconciliation!

Challenge 2!

Find another Parable in the Bible and complete the task using this parable!

What are you capable of forgiving?

Forgive	Not Forgive

Shoplifting	Physical Abuse	Murder	Anger
Arguments	Graffiti	War	Laziness
Starvation	Natural Disasters	Extinction of Animals	Drug Taking

Challenge!

Why would someone disagree with the things you couldn't forgive on?

You have a whole list of things you may someday have to consider forgiving. Can you place these in the table, depending on whether you could forgive or not.
Remember to give a reason why.