

Easter: Religious Education Support Materials

These materials support the religious education enquiry process advocated in the local agreed syllabi in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The following activities are suggestions that may be used to support a learning enquiry based on Easter, particularly the concept of forgiveness, as a lead into the GenR8 presentation or as follow up.

Engaging and Enquiring		
Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
New Life	<p>Why do people eat eggs at Easter?</p> <p>Why are eggs a symbol of new life?</p>	<p>Link back to the first part of the GenR8 presentation which was all about Easter eggs. Show the children a collection of eggs - different sizes and colours, chocolate and real eggs! What do they remind the children of? Share ideas and talk about the idea of new life.</p> <p>If possible you might want to show the children some chicks hatching in an incubator.</p>
Forgiveness and saying sorry	<p>What does the word forgiveness mean?</p> <p>What does it mean to say sorry?</p> <p>How do we feel when we forgive others?</p> <p>How do we feel when we say sorry?</p>	<p>Link back to the puppet sketch and one of them getting things wrong. Ask the children to share, draw or write down an occasion when they did something wrong. Then talk about the puppets response in the sketch. Ask the children to think about a time when they had to forgive someone.</p> <p>You might also compare the idea of forgiveness with 'mending a relationship'. So perhaps use the idea of using glue, sellotape or a plaster to mend things...but talk about why these can't mend a friendship...what can mend a friendship?</p> <p>Or why not use a story about saying sorry such as 'Tomato says sorry'?</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_MSE1ipwmU</p>
The Easter Story	<p>What do Christians remember at Easter?</p> <p>What happens in the Easter story?</p> <p>What can we learn about Jesus from the Easter story?</p> <p>What can we learn about the Christian idea of God?</p> <p>What does the Easter story tell us about forgiveness?</p>	<p>Read the story! Make sure you read the Easter story with the children, ideally from a Bible.</p> <p>You might use a reflective storytelling approach or Godly Play to introduce the story. There are also some very good videos of the Easter story available on line, for example:</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zg34wmn This is suitable for KS2.</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/lots-celebrate-easterperformance This is a wonderful sand art version for young children.</p>

Exploring		
Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Concept of forgiveness (1)	<p>What do Christians believe about forgiveness?</p> <p>Why do Christians call it 'Good Friday'?</p>	<p>Explore the meaning behind the cross for Christians. The idea of Jesus' death being the 'price paid' for sin and providing forgiveness for all.</p> <p>See http://request.org.uk/restart/2015/11/24/the-cross/ (Key Stage 2)</p> <p>You might also use Pilgrim's Progress by John Bunyan. The idea of forgiveness, with burdens being taken away.</p>
Concept of forgiveness (2)	<p>What did Jesus teach about forgiveness?</p> <p>How many times should you forgive someone?</p> <p>Should we forgive everyone?</p>	<p>Use other bible stories about forgiveness to deepen the children's understanding of the concept. For example you might use: The Parable of the Lost Sheep, The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Forgiving 70 x 7 (Luke 17 v 3-4), The Parable of the Prodigal Son. You might explore these stories through Godly Play, drama, textual analysis or through art.</p> <p>See http://request.org.uk/restart/2015/11/23/the-lost-son/</p>
Concept of forgiveness (3)	<p>What can we learn about forgiveness from the Easter narrative?</p> <p>What did Jesus mean when he said 'Father, forgive them'?</p>	<p>Focus on the words of Jesus on the cross, as heard in the GenR8 sketch, and perhaps also on the words about forgiveness in the Lord's prayer.</p> <p>There is a good film version of the words from the cross available here: http://request.org.uk/restart/2014/06/10/holy-week/ (part of a series on Holy Week)</p> <p>Use a silent debate (see for example http://www.pedagoo.org/silent-debating/) to analyse the words carefully in groups and then discuss the ideas as a class. What do the words mean? What do we think about them?</p>
Concept of resurrection	<p>What truth is there in the resurrection narrative?</p> <p>What happened in the resurrection accounts?</p>	<p>Set up a detective case to find out what happened to the body in the tomb. Children read different bible passages about the death and resurrection of Jesus and try to piece together what happened as 'detectives'. They present their findings to the class. This is a good way of the children engaging with the bible text.</p>

Evaluating and Expressing		
Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs	<p>What do Hot Cross Buns/Chocolate Eggs have to do with Easter?</p> <p>What is the best way for Christians to remember Easter?</p> <p>How can we best represent the idea of forgiveness at Easter?</p>	<p>Evaluate with the children the meaning of the Hot Cross Bun and/or Easter Eggs based on what they have learned about Easter, and also some of the background about Hot Cross Buns and/or Easter Eggs. Ask the children to design/create a new food item that could 'replace' or 'redesign' the Hot Cross Bun or Easter Egg to better reflect the idea of forgiveness.</p> <p>The Real Easter Egg company may also be useful here: http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk</p>
Songs of forgiveness	<p>What does forgiveness mean to Christians?</p>	<p>Listen again to the song 'Forgiving isn't easy' by John Hardwick. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lmt8QNzr30s</p> <p>Ask the children to decide if the words accurately sum up the Christian view of forgiveness. Can they write alternative words or their own poem/song about forgiveness that shows what Christians believe?</p>
Forgiveness in the news	<p>How do Christians put their beliefs into practice?</p> <p>What would Jesus do if he was on earth now?</p> <p>Would a Christian forgive this person?</p>	<p>Use carefully selected newspapers or online articles and ask the children to say what a Christian might say or do about the issue e.g. would they forgive? How might a Christian respond? You might use local as well as national or global issues and create a class collage of ideas and thoughts based on Christian teachings.</p>
Symbolising forgiveness	<p>What colour is forgiveness?</p> <p>How might we symbolise forgiveness?</p>	<p>Ask the children to write a poem called 'The Colour of Forgiveness'.</p> <p>Ask them to create a symbol (e.g. chains broken, hands open, shaking hands, high five...) or piece of artwork to illustrate the idea of forgiveness and explain their creation. This might include sculpture as well as 2D images.</p>
The Forgiveness Project	<p>What does it mean to forgive?</p> <p>Is forgiveness always possible?</p> <p>What impact can forgiveness have on individuals, society, the world?</p>	<p>Find out more about The Forgiveness Project. http://theforgivenessproject.com</p> <p>This is most suited for upper Key Stage 2 pupils and it is suggested teachers use some of the articles with care, selecting appropriate material. However, it provides some powerful real life stories for pupils to engage with, so is worth looking at.</p> <p>It is not a Christian organisation, and is not affiliated to any religious group.</p>