



## **BELIEFS IN ACTION: WHY IS FORGIVENESS SO IMPORTANT TO CHRISTIANS?**

RE:quest is full of amazing resources which will help you get a better understanding of Christianity. This project will look at how Christian beliefs affect their actions. We will look at forgiveness by taking a close look at what the Bible says on the subject.

Use the 'Christian Beliefs in Action - Forgiveness' PDF and complete the tasks set on this sheet.

**STARTER:** A Moment in Time.

Look at the photo on the PDF and answer the questions here:

What might have happened before the photo was taken?

What might be happening now?

What may happen after? Think of two things and write them here.

Which of these two things do you think is the best? Why?

**UNPACKING FORGIVENESS:** After watching the video finish the sentences:

Forgiveness is...

Forgiveness is more than just words, it is...

Things happen to us when we don't forgive, like...

Christians should forgive others because...

Not forgiving people is like holding a pin because...

**READ THE 'PARABLE OF THE LOST SON':**

Jesus told this story:

'There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his dad, 'Dad, give me my share of your money. I don't want to wait until you die. I want it now.' The dad didn't want to but gave him the money anyway.

"Not long after that the younger son left home taking all the money with him. He had lots of parties and spent all the money very quickly. When the money was all gone, he was hungry because there was no food anywhere. He went to work on a pig farm. He was so hungry that he even wanted to eat the pig's food.

Then he thought, 'I know, I'll go home. My dad will look after me. He looks after everyone really well, no one is hungry at home. When I get there, I'll tell him I'm really sorry.' So, he left the pig farm and went home.

He was very worried about what his dad would say. He'd spent all the money! He was so poor that even his clothes were rags.

He was still a long way from his home, but his dad was looking out for him. His dad saw him and felt sorry for him, so he ran to him and gave him a big hug. He was so happy his son was home.

'I'm really sorry, Dad. I shouldn't have taken the money and spent it,' said the son. But the dad just hugged him tighter.

The dad said to his workers, 'Quick! Bring the best coat and shoes for him. Get a big party ready, my son is home! He was lost, but now he's found. He's back!' His dad gave him the family ring - now he really was back in the family.

They had a party which was so loud everyone in the village could hear it.

The older son had been working all day. When he came back, he heard the loud music and dancing. He saw his dad making a big fuss of his brother and was angry.

His dad asked why he was angry. He said, 'I helped you all the time he was gone, but you never gave me a party.'

His dad said, 'You have all of my stuff. You're with me all the time. But we had to have a party for your brother. He was lost and now he's found. Your brother is home!'

**WATCH THE MODERN-DAY RETELLING OF THIS STORY.**

Create a list of the key characters and events in this parable.  
Use the grid below:

<b>CHARACTERS:</b>	<b>KEY EVENTS:</b>
The younger son	
	Gave the son his share of the money
The lost son	
	The lost son wanted to eat their food
The lost son	
	Ran out to meet his lost son
The workers	
The older son	
	Told the older son that he had a party because his brother was lost but now was found

**COMPLETE THE SENTENCES TO TELL THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON  
IN YOUR OWN WORDS:**

The Parable of the Lost Son is about a son who wanted...

He left home and spent the money on...

Soon he had no money, so he went to work...

He was so hungry he wanted to eat...

He decided to...

When his dad saw him he...

His older brother was angry because...

But his dad was happy because...

**BREAK IT DOWN:**

How does the dad in the story remind you of God?

How does the lost son remind you of us?

What does the story show us about forgiveness?

Do you think forgiveness is important to God?

**BELIEF IN ACTION:** Complete the sentences:

The ladies said they wanted to forgive the man who shot their family and friends because...

If they didn't forgive, they might feel...

Their belief in God helped them because...

**ACTIVITY:** Complete this letter to your local MP, Mr Ivor Temper. In the letter you should say why you think the ban on forgiveness is a bad idea. Make sure you include:

- At least 2 reasons you disagree with the new law
- Write about the Parable of the Lost Son
- The benefits of forgiveness

**Dear Ivor Temper,**

**I am writing to you because I have heard there is a law banning forgiveness. Here are two reasons I don't think this is a very good idea:**

**My first reason is...**

**My second reason is...**

**Also, the Bible has a story in it about a lost son. The story teaches a lot about forgiveness. It teaches that we should forgive because...**

**So, I hope you read my letter and listen to my ideas. They are better than yours, I think.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**REWIND:** Write a new outcome for the photo as if you were a Christian.

What's going to happen next?

Why?

**PLENARY:** How could what you have learnt today change things:

At your school?

In your family?

Across the world?

**EXTENSION ACTIVITY:** Create an acrostic poem around this subject:

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