This material explores the concept of forgiveness: both forgiving and asking for forgiveness. It highlights the difference between Jesus’ teaching and other ideas of his and our time.
The story focus is ‘The Unforgiving Servant’ from Matthew 18:21-35.

**Religious Education:** (Units mostly from Cambridgeshire, enquiry questions relevant to all)
FS/YR **Ourselves, Our Families and Our Communities:**
Where do we belong? (This relates to PSE strand of developing awareness and understanding of others and their ‘uniqueness’.)
KS1 **The Family in Christianity:** What difference does belonging to a faith make to a family?
Lower KS2 **Judaism:** What is important for Jews about being part of God’s family?
Upper KS2 **Christianity and Judaism:** Is religion what you say or what you do? (This could be a great opportunity to explore the concept of Atonement in those faith traditions)
KS2 (Unit 5D, QCA) How do the beliefs of Christians influence their actions?

**OPPORTUNITIES:**
RE days, Cool Choices
INSPIRE Prayer spaces
Footprints of Faith
Art in Heaven competition

Contact us:
Linda King *GenR8 Administration*  Tel: 01954 780924
email: laking1@btinternet.com
Music is from John Hardwick [http://www.johnhardwick.org.uk/](http://www.johnhardwick.org.uk/)

Registered Charity Number 1135194
GenR8 Opportunities Link

Do be sure to check out the GenR8 website http://www.genr8.org/ and opportunities to...

**BOOK AN RE DAY:** Our RE days are run by John Hardwick one of the founding members of GenR8. John uses a range of creative communication skills such as juggling, story-telling and music, to explore various themes in a fun and lively way:

- Go Global
- Nobody’s a nobody
- Books are Brilliant
- Easter
- Christmas
- Advent
- Be a Good Sport

For more information or to book email: enquiries@genr8.org or ☎ 01223 237874

**DISCOVER COOL CHOICES:** For the last year GenR8 have offered an interactive two-hour lesson aimed at helping year five and six students make positive life choices. The initiative uses a variety of ideas, fun and interaction to encourage students to think through areas such as:

- What are choices? *We make hundreds each day!*
- Who influences our choices? *Parents, peers, media?*
- What are uncool and cool choices? *How can we know what are good and bad choices?*
- What are the barriers to making cool choices? *Peer pressure, media voices*
- Reflective response time. *Time to think about making “cool” choices for ourselves, others and the world.*

This year’s Cool Choices was fully booked by January, 2014! enquiries@genr8.org

**EXPERIENCE INSPIRE:** A GenR8 project run in partnership with the Diocese of Ely, St Bede’s School and supported by the Church Schools of Cambridge. INSPIRE provides a hands-on opportunity for children to reflect on their identity, values and emotions. It uses imaginative activities for pupils to explore spirituality in fresh, creative ways. We work with your school and your local church to put on a prayer spaces day using INSPIRE resources.

INSPIRE supports aspects of RE, SEAL and SMSC.

For more information contact: Steve Whyatt, GenR8 Director – 01223 237874, stevew@genr8.org or visit the website.

Also from Church Schools of Cambridge come some brilliant guided tours of Cambridge called *Footprints of Faith*. The Fight for Human Rights walk will really bring some big RE issues to life.

Have you heard about **NATRE’s 11th Annual ‘Art in Heaven’ Competition 2014**, with five themes to choose from?

- Worship, Spiritual Journey, The Golden Rule, God – who are you?
- Heaven: life after life?

Look at the gallery of previous years and be inspired!
THIS PACK comprises links with RE and PSHE, ideas and activities to support teachers in the classroom. Teachers are invited to select whatever they feel is most appropriate. It is Penny Kite’s last contribution – the first written in summer 2002. Penny researches in RE, and teaches RE in school and for primary trainees at the Faculty of Education. She has found writing for GenR8 to be a joyful challenge! Penny is always happy to support primary teachers in RE, and can be contacted by email psk29@cam.ac.uk

Read the story: do make sure that you tell or read the story from Scripture. http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18%3A21-35&version=ERV

Here is the Easy-to-Read version of the Bible which you can display on the IWB or print out for your pupils. Interestingly, the version gives ‘77’ or ‘70 x 7’ – the point that Jesus was making is that it is a huge, effectively limitless number. His followers are obliged to forgive those who say sorry to them.

The story onion: (for more ideas, email Penny!)
Whenever we tell a story in RE, there is an important pattern we can use to help our children engage with the religion, and to avoid an immediate transition into PHSE.

a) Start with the faith context (the outer layer) and ask children what this story might have meant to those to whom it was originally told and what meaning it might have for members of the faith community today; faith stories have an authority for members of that faith community.

b) Make faith link. In other words, can you find a similar story or idea in a different faith? Without pretending that all religions are the same, it would be helpful for Key Stage 2 children to learn about the Jewish concept of Atonement in order to support this story.

c) Next, consider the extent to which your concept is universal. Does everyone need to say sorry for wrong, and receive forgiveness, whatever their beliefs?

d) Finally, explore personal views; by this time, your children should have lots to say.

Lord’s Prayer link:
For all pupils it is important to make the link between the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6: 9-13) and forgiveness. ‘Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us’, means ‘on the basis that’ we forgive those who sin against us. For Christians, this is not an optional extra, but an integral part of their faith. Find the topic in the (Cambridgeshire) KS1 unit ‘The family in Christianity: what difference does belonging to a faith make to a family? Work with KS2 children to explore the enquiry question, ‘Is religion what you say or what you do?’ across two or more religions.

Answers to greetings quiz:
A9 These are black-tailed prairie dogs showing signs of affection; B6 This 'Namaste' gesture means 'I honour God in you'; C11 Hannah Cockroft greets her fans after winning 100m and 200m gold in London in 2012; D5 The high five gesture is used throughout the US and extensively in sport; E1 This is the Chinese greeting wishing luck for the New Year; F3 This is a Maori greeting; G8 Bowing is a sign of respect, especially prevalent in Japan; H7 A hand-shake is used in business in much of the world; I2 In the Middle East hugs between men are a standard greeting, but a man and a woman usually hug each other only if they are related; J10 Waving is a very common greeting ~ here from Mali; K12 This special hand shake ritual between women in Somalia has a dance-like quality; L4 (here, from Spain) ~ Cheek kissing is a ritual or social gesture to indicate friendship, perform a greeting, to confer congratulations, to comfort someone, or to show respect.

Answer to KS2 Big Calculation
Use the numbers 1, 2, 4, 10, 50 (once only and in any order) and the signs + - x (in any order).
Target number 490 (i.e. 70 x 7)
\[
1 + 4 = 5 \Rightarrow 5 \times 2 = 10 \Rightarrow 50 \times 10 = 500 \Rightarrow 500 - 10 = 490
\]
Reflect and respond material for GenR8 Summer 2014 – Forgiving isn’t easy

**Song “Forgiving isn’t easy” by John Hardwick**

D          G          A
Forgiving! Forgiving isn’t easy!
*(Forgiving – Hold one hand palm up and “wipe” palm with fingers of the other hand in circular motion. Easy – hands crossing in front from side to side)*

In fact it’s downright tough!
*(Point down with both hands on each word to emphasise word ‘down’)*

D          G          A
Forgiving! Forgiving isn’t easy!

When people wind you up!
*(Winding action with one arm, ending up with fist in air)*

Bm    F#m
Just chill out! Just be cool!
*(Lay head back in hands, ‘Cool’ sign)*

Bm    F#m
Don’t retaliate like a silly fool!
*(Fists in front of face, looking menacing)*

Bm    F#m
Work it out! It’ll be brill!
*(Shake hands with others, thumbs up)*

G          A
That’s what God wants us to do!
*(Point up and then to self with 2 hands, then punch air with alternate arms)*

G          A          D (last time)
Yes, that’s what God wants us to do!

*By John Hardwick*

Use [http://www.genr8.org/songs/](http://www.genr8.org/songs/) to listen to and download a range of songs that are used by GenR8 teams, including ‘Forgiving isn’t easy’. Alternatively, you can buy John’s songs on CD by going to [www.johnhardwick.org.uk](http://www.johnhardwick.org.uk)
Ideas and Activities for the Classroom

**Make pipe cleaner people:** Pipe cleaner people are easy to make and you can use them to help you re-tell the story. Ask your teacher to look up [http://spoonful.com/crafts/pipe-cleaner-crafts-peppy-people](http://spoonful.com/crafts/pipe-cleaner-crafts-peppy-people), and then stick 1p coins on the feet, so that your little figures stand up.

How do we feel when someone is mean to us?
What are we going to do about it?

**Make forgiveness biscuits:**
When we say sorry for hurting someone, or we forgive someone else, the Bible says that this must involve the heart; we must mean what we say!
These [cherry shortbread heart biscuits](http://spoonful.com/crafts/pipe-cleaner-crafts-peppy-people) from the BBC Good Food website are a good way of helping to say sorry or I forgive you.

**Sunflower art attack!**

Draw round a saucer in the middle of your paper. Use a paintbrush to paint your other hand yellow. Place the heel of your hand on the circle, open your fingers and print. Turn the paper round, keep painting and printing. You can add little finger prints in brown for the seeds in the middle.

You can only do this printing activity with open hands. If we do not forgive our friend, it is like having only fists. If we forgive our friend, it is like having open hands and an open heart.
Cool figure:
Are you cool enough to turn HATE into LOVE?
Try changing only ONE letter each time and make the transformation in 6 moves!
Answer at the end...

HATE

~ not on time
~ can’t walk
~ green & fruity
~ broadcast now

LOVE

Be a friend challenge:
In which part of the world would you expect to see this greeting between friends or acquaintances? How do you greet your friends? Why might it be important?

Cool figure: Are you cool enough to turn HATE into LOVE? Try changing only ONE letter each time and make the transformation in 6 moves! Answer at the end...

Be a friend challenge: In which part of the world would you expect to see this greeting between friends or acquaintances? How do you greet your friends? Why might it be important?

In which part of the world would you expect to see this greeting between friends or acquaintances? How do you greet your friends? Why might it be important?

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12

Match the gesture above to a part of the world below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Western USA</th>
<th>India and Far East</th>
<th>Widely in sport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Mostly the USA</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Most of western world</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Most of the world</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>Southern Europe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Word search:
The frame below contains 20 words that are something to do with forgiveness. Once you have found them, talk about the ones that you think might be important.
Which are your top 3?

CROSS OFF THE WORDS AS YOU FIND THEM …
repent learn
sadness teach
forgiveness give
restore feel
sorry silence
hurt cry
joy friend
help love
grief gift
pray God
sad

Why might Christians use a capital letter for God?

A BIG calculation!
In the Bible, Jesus tells his friends to forgive 70 x 7 times. Use the numbers 1, 2, 4, 10, 50 (once only and in any order) and the signs + - x (in any order). Target number 490

SHOW HOW YOU ARRIVED AT YOUR ANSWER!

Watch an excellent animated version of the story on video:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jwG9oEavP8

In Jesus’ day, Jewish teaching required forgiveness of an offender 7 times. Jesus’ ideas were shocking to his Jewish audience.
Would you keep on forgiving someone?
Why might it be important for Christians?

**The unforgiving servant:**
This story is found in the Bible in Matthew Chapter 18, verses 21-35. The Gospel of Matthew is the first book of the New Testament. Here is a picture cube to help you to remember the story. Perhaps you could colour the pictures and cut out the cube. Fold the squares and glue the flaps down carefully. Does the shape of the net remind you of anything? And whose heart, do Christians believe, is at the heart of forgiveness?

Answers for HATE to LOVE:
HATE, LATE, LAME, LIME, LIVE, LOVE