

## Religious Education – Forgiveness

Christians believe that forgiveness for sins by God is possible because of the death and resurrection of Jesus. They believe that this restores the relationship between God and human beings.

Show your child the Martin Luther King slide. Do they know who he was?

Ask your child to suggest examples of what this quote might mean.

Draw out the idea that forgiveness is not just a 'one off' action... it is about living out an attitude of love towards others.

You might want to encourage them to consider if it is easier to forgive some people more than others, or to forgive certain things.

Explain that the verses on this slide are recorded in Matthew's gospel. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, asks how often he should forgive someone. Jesus said that his followers should forgive others 70 x7.

What does this mean? Ask your child to suggest a meaning.

*Note that in New Testament times the number seven was considered to be the number of perfection. Jesus is saying that people should forgive and keep on forgiving. Just like the quote from Martin Luther King, Jesus is referring to the forgiveness of God which is eternal and unwavering forever.*

Ask your child if they can think of another way of expressing the same idea, for example in the form of a short poem using metaphors or similes to express the idea of eternity.

Tell the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant from Matthew 18:21-35.

### **Film version to try:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvTk34qUMv4>

Finally:

- What have we learned about forgiveness?
- How might we sum up the Christian idea of forgiveness? As an image?
- Which of the 7 images on the final slide best sums up the Christian idea of forgiveness? Why have you chosen that one?