



Enquiry Question: Is forgiveness always possible for Christians?

Worldview/Faith
– Christianity



In this unit, children will investigate how Jesus' life, death and resurrection impacts on a Christian's understanding of forgiveness.

- **Incarnation:** God becoming man or literally being “made flesh
- **Gospel:** the first 4 books of the New Testament about Jesus' life, ministry and death, and the early Church.
- **Disciples:** Jesus's special friends.
- **Lamb of God:** A name given to Jesus because he sacrificed himself as animals were sacrificed at the time.

Christians believe that Jesus is the son of God, who came to Earth in order to save humans from their sins. His death and resurrection opened up the way back to God and restored humanity's relationship with him. This is the Christian concept of salvation.

Jesus forgave many people in his lifetime as an example to his followers. He was “without sin” as the incarnate Son of God so could not do something wrong. He is usually depicted in the Gospels as kind and loving. The actions in the Temple are a stark contrast to this.

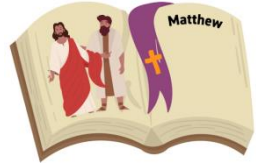
Jesus taught his disciples “the Lord's Prayer” which is also known as the “Our Father”. It explicitly asks God to grant the speaker forgiveness as they forgive others who have hurt them.

- Jesus as the Son of God has the power to forgive sins.
- Jesus' death and resurrection which is celebrated by Christians at Easter. Christians believe that Jesus choosing to go to his death is atoning for all wrongdoing in the world and they are therefore also forgiven of any sins.



Many Christians will be aware of and may regularly say “The Lord's Prayer”. The Christian asks God to forgive his or her wrongdoing as they forgive people who have wronged them, implying that God expects the Christian to practice forgiveness towards all others.

Jesus overturning the traders' tables in the Temple might make you think Jesus' actions were unforgiving, but the Temple was meant to be a place of prayer and peace. Instead of this, there is the bellowing of cattle and the bleating of sheep and the voices of the traders making money from a holy act in a holy place. These animals were being sold in order to be ritually sacrificed.



- How do I feel about forgiving people? Is it something I find easy to do or do I find it difficult?
- Is it easier to forgive some actions than others? Do I think some people deserve forgiveness and some don't?
- What might I need to be forgiven for?