

Value of the term: Reconciliation

Reconciliation is the process of bringing people with differences together and helping them understand each other.

- The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you**

- This is the day that The Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

- Lighten our hearts, Lord.
Be with us today.

Forgiving others as God has forgiven you

When Jesus was talking to his disciples about forgiveness. He said:

*"If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you,
your Father in heaven will also forgive you." Matthew 6.14*

Today, we are going to hear two stories about forgiveness and generosity. The first story was told by Jesus and is about two men who owed money. One owed a lot. One owed a very small amount.

Once there was a king whose servant Joshua owed him a huge sum of money. The king decided it was high time the money was paid back! He ordered Joshua to appear before him and demanded that the debt be paid immediately.

The servant fell on his knees before the king "Please, please your majesty, I know I owe you such a lot. I promise, if you give me a bit more time, I will pay the money back in full."

The king, who was a kind and **forgiving** man, consulted with his close adviser Theopholis who told him that Joshua had a large family and many mouths to feed. In fact, Theopholis doubted that even if Joshua worked until he was a hundred years old, he would ever earn enough to pay the money back! The king thought for a while and then he spoke to Joshua. "I have decided, after consulting with Theopholis to cancel the debt altogether. Now go home and try to live within your means in future."

Joshua was **AMAZED!!!** Thank you, thank you your majesty. I promise to try very, very hard.

Off he went back to tell his family the good news. Theopholis decided to follow him, just to see what happened.

Almost as soon as Joshua left the palace he bumped into a young man called Benjamin, another of the king's servants. Benjamin owed Joshua a very small sum of money, which he had borrowed to buy some cloth for his wife to make clothes for their new baby. Joshua grabbed Benjamin by the scruff of the neck. "Hey Ben I want that money that you owe me paid back by tonight. If I don't get it, I'm having you thrown into jail, understand? No ifs, no buts, just pay up, **OR ELSE!!**"

Little did Joshua realise of course, that Theopholis had followed him and had seen the whole thing. He was already on his way back to tell the king all about it!

What do you think the king will say?

DRAMA

Narrator:

PHOEBE IS FOUND OUT

Phoebe was worried. She was in the school netball team and there was an away match that day against their school's arch rivals Fairbanks Primary. But this day of all days, Phoebe had forgotten her netball kit!

There was no way she could get it now. Her Mum and Dad both worked a long way from home.

Phoebe knew that Mrs Jones would say that without her kit she couldn't be in the team. Sophie, the reserve, would play in her place. That was the rule. Mrs Jones was very strict about it.

Mrs Jones: Good morning Phoebe. Is everything OK? You look a bit upset.

Phoebe: It's my netball kit, Mrs Jones. I've forgotten it! I really, really want to come to Fairbanks and play in the match this afternoon. I don't know what to do.

Mrs Jones: Well you know the rules Phoebe. Sophie is the reserve and she has her kit today. She will have to play in your place.

Phoebe: Oh but Mrs Jones, I've been looking forward to it for ages.

Along comes Sophie.

Sophie: Hi Phoebe, I bet you're looking forward to the match this afternoon.

Mrs Jones: Phoebe has forgotten her kit Sophie so, as first reserve, you will play in her place.

Sophie:

(Thinks for a moment, holding netball kit in bag) Well Phoebe is a much better player than me, Mrs Jones and it's such an important game. What about if I let Phoebe borrow my kit?

Mrs Jones:

That is extremely generous of you Sophie. In that case I will **forgive** the fact that you have forgotten your kit Phoebe, and allow you to play.

Phoebe:

Thank you so much Mrs Jones! Thanks Sophie, you're AMAZING!

Later that day the children are in the dinner queue.

Phoebe:

Hey Leah, Have you brought my umbrella back that you borrowed yesterday?

Leah:

Oh sorry Phoebe, I've forgotten it. I promise I'll bring it tomorrow.

Phoebe:

That's just not good enough Leah. I'm never lending you anything again. You are a waste of space. You can forget that invitation I gave you to my party. I just don't want you there!

Mrs Jones, who is behind the queue, sees the entire incident between Phoebe and Leah. She comes forward and beckons to Phoebe.

Mrs Jones: Could I have a word with you please Phoebe?

Phoebe looks sheepish.

Pause.

Leader:

What do you think Mrs Jones should say to Phoebe and why?

Follow up:

Write or draw the next scene. What would Mrs Jones say to Phoebe?

Prayer

A forgiveness prayer

Lord Jesus

Help us to be ready to show **forgiveness** to others,

As you are ready to show **forgiveness** to us.

Amen

Go in the peace of the Lord
Thanks be to God

