

## The Forgiveness Project

### Forgiving the Unforgivable – Lesson Plan 3

Lesson 3 of 3 – Justice and forgiveness in Rwanda

### Mary Blewitt's story

55 mins (film duration 6 mins)



## *Justice and forgiveness in Rwanda*

Please ensure the staff member facilitating this lesson has an understanding of the Rwandan Genocide. A teacher tube video (3.45 mins giving a background to the Rwandan Genocide can be found here: <http://www.teachertube.com/video/rwanda-genocide-194830>).

**Lesson objectives:** **1.** To be able to explain the personal experiences of someone who has lost family members in the Rwandan Genocide. **2.** To be able to explain the links between justice and forgiveness.

**Key vocabulary:** Rwanda, genocide, Hutu, Tutsi, justice, Gacaca courts.

| Teacher activity   | Learner activity  | Time    |
|--|---|---------|
| <p><b>Concept Cracker</b><br/>Ask students to discuss in pairs the meaning of genocide. Invite class to feed back their ideas. Reveal dictionary definition on the PowerPoint presentation.</p>  | Discuss in your pair the meaning of genocide.   | 5 mins  |
| <p><b>The Rwandan Genocide</b><br/>Ask students to individually read the passage in their student booklets and highlight any words or sentences they are unsure about, or that they would like to discuss further.</p>   | Read the passage in your student booklet and highlight any words you are unsure of.   | 5 mins  |
| <p><b>Mary Blewitt's story</b><br/>Introduce the film and the ground rules slide. Ask students to make notes of any words or concepts they don't understand. On completion of the film invite students to respond or discuss any words or events they are unsure of.</p>                           | Watch the film and make notes of any words or concepts you don't understand. Discuss these after the film with the class.       | 15 mins |
| <p><b>Justice and forgiveness</b><br/>Ask students to read through the statement on p. 4 of the student booklet, and in pairs discuss Mary's point of view. Do they agree or disagree with Mary? Invite feedback to the class.</p>   | Using the PowerPoint slide discuss Mary's point of view.  | 10 mins |
| <p><b>Further development</b><br/>In small groups ask students to read the passage in their student booklets on Justice in Rwanda. Then spend five minutes on each of the two questions, gathering the thoughts of the group and responding to each other. Invite student feedback as a class.</p> | Read the passage in the booklet. In small groups explore the three questions in the student booklet and respond. Give feedback. | 15 mins |
| <p><b>One last story</b><br/>Ask a student to read the story of Mr Philippe and Mr Teresphore on the PowerPoint presentation and reflect on how reconciliation can take place.</p>   | Read and reflect on the story on the PowerPoint presentation.   | 5 mins  |

### Definitions

**Rwanda:** officially the Republic of Rwanda is a country in east Africa and one of the smallest countries on the African mainland. It is a land locked country and bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

**Genocide:** the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group.

**Hutu:** a member of a people forming the majority population in Rwanda and Burundi. They are traditionally a farming people, and were historically dominated by the Tutsi people.

**Tutsi:** a member of a people forming a minority of the population in Rwanda and Burundi, who formerly dominated the Hutu majority.

**Justice:** just behaviour or treatment. The quality of being fair and reasonable. The administration of the law or authority in maintaining this.

**Gacaca court:** is a system of community justice inspired by Rwandan tradition where gacaca can be loosely translated to "justice amongst the grass".

## Notes