

The Forgiveness Project

Why do people forgive? – Lesson Plan 1

Lesson 1 of 3 – The impact of forgiveness

Mary Foley's story – Part 1

55 mins (film duration 14 mins)



The impact of forgiveness

Lesson objectives: **1.** To be able to explain why people choose to forgive others. **2.** To be able to explain the personal experience of an individual and their journey towards forgiveness.

Key vocabulary: condone, justification, forgive, contemplation, vengeance.

Teacher activity	Learner activity	Time
<p>Concept Cracker</p> <p>In pairs ask students to ‘think, pair, share’ their thoughts about forgiveness and what it is. (4mins)</p> <p>Ask students to individually complete the concept cracker page in the student booklet. (6 mins)</p>	<p>In pairs discuss what you think forgiveness is and complete the concept cracker in your booklet.</p>	10 mins
<p>Mary Foley’s story</p> <p>Introduce the film and the ground rules. Watch the film and pause at the following times to ask students prompt questions:</p> <p>3.34 – As Charlotte’s mother how do you think Mary felt about her daughter being friends with Em?</p> <p>10.15 – How do you think Beatriz’s upbringing has affected her ability to cope with challenging situations?</p> <p>Invite students to respond as a class or in pairs.</p>	<p>Watch the film and get ready to pause and reflect on the events in the film.</p>	23 mins
<p>Exploring emotions</p> <p>Split students into pairs and ask them to brainstorm some of the emotions Mary felt throughout her journey of forgiveness. Invite feedback as a class.</p>	<p>Brainstorm some of the emotions Mary might have felt before and after forgiving Beatriz.</p>	5 mins
<p>Benefits of forgiveness</p> <p>Split the class into small groups. Ask them to read through each statement and use the prompt questions to explore their thinking as a group. Invite students to feed back their ideas to the class.</p>	<p>Working in small groups read through each statement in your student booklet and use prompt questions to discuss. Get ready to give feedback.</p>	15 mins
<p>Next lesson</p> <p>In the next lesson we will be continue to think about Mary and why she chose to forgive Beatriz. We will also look at what happened next with Beatriz whilst she was in prison.</p> <p>Question to think about: What was the biggest motivation for Mary to forgive Beatriz?</p>	<p>Look at the slide regarding the next lesson.</p>	2 mins

Definitions

Condone: accept (behaviour that is considered morally wrong or offensive).

Justification: the action of showing something to be right or reasonable.

Forgive: stop feeling angry or resentful (towards someone) for an offence, flaw or mistake.

Contemplation: the action of deep, reflective thought.

Vengeance: punishing someone for harm caused.

Notes