



# EASTER FORGIVENESS

# BB41

Related values

Friendship | Sacrifice

Intro Object

Glue



Other Equipment

Toilet rolls | Various "fixing" materials  
(see appendix B)

Game

Appendix B

'Fixing your Friend' bandage game

Suggested Entry Music

'Fix You'  
coldplay

Story

Appendix A

Jesus on the cross  
Luke 23:32-47

Reflection

Appendix B

- Materials that fix
- Saying sorry
- Forgiveness is powerful

Song suggestion

'You Forgive Me'  
Life Tree Kids

Image prompts

I wonder..

- What would you say if you were there?
- Could you forgive those who were mean?
- What was Jesus thinking about?

Prayer

When others do us wrong, help us to be compassionate and forgive.  
When we do wrong, help us to be strong and say sorry  
When we wrong ourselves, help us to be kind and loving  
Most of all, help us to remember Jesus' example and power so that our all our thoughts, all our actions and all our lives fix things more than breaks.  
Amen.

## Notes:



## Story

Ref: Luke 23:32 - 47

*The Hill that was called 'Skull'. It was this Hill that Jesus had to carry up his heavy cross.*

*Everything was heavy, and everything hurt, his body felt heavy, still hurting from the soldier's beating earlier. The large wooden cross they made him carry was very heavy, and hurt his back. The hurtful words shouted and jeered from the crowds carried an unkind weight, The sky above was darkening like a bruise, Jesus' heart was heavy with what was coming next. The whole day felt heavy, the whole day hurt.*

*When they reached the top, the soldiers stripped Jesus and put him on the cross, and argued over his clothes.*

*Jesus listened to the anger; the meanness, the sadness, the laughter, the hatred. Jesus listened to every word and then he spoke*

*He did not shout back or cry out in anger.  
He lifted His eyes and whispered,  
"Father... forgive them."*

*Two criminals hung on their own crosses next to him, one of them joined in the hurling insults, but the other rebuked the first, "we're all facing the same thing" he said "but only two of us deserve it". He knew he had done wrong before, and he was scared now. His voice shook as he turned his head to Jesus.*

*"Please... remember me."*

*Jesus lifted his head and faced the fearful criminal "Today, you will be with me in paradise" he replied. The man closed his eyes. He was no longer afraid.*

*The sky slowly grew dark, as if the world itself was holding its breath. The crowd grew quiet. Jesus breathed heavily. He felt alone, but He was not afraid. He trusted His Father.*

*With His last breathe, Jesus said,  
"Father, I place My life in Your hands."  
And then He was still.*

*A soldier standing nearby felt his chest tighten. He had never seen anyone like this. He has seen hatred, anger, despair, bitterness, regret, defiance.... he had never seen forgiveness. "This man" he said "was truly good."*





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BB41  
B

## Introduction / Object Lesson

(Glue is excellent for fixing something broken, but how do you fix a broken friendship? We could try gluing ourselves to the people we are grumpy with - do you think that will work? Maybe, that isn't the best way - what can we use to fix a friendship?...

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## Game Fix Your Friend 'Bandage' Wrapping

Invite 6 volunteers, split into two groups of 3.

Announce that one person in each group is "broken" and needs to be "fixed". Two volunteers from each team then have 1 minute to 'fix' their respective team member by wrapping them up in toilet roll. Team with the best coverage wins.

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## Reflection

Put your hand up if you've broken anything recently? What did you break? Were you able to fix it? Some things that are broken cannot be mended, but it is often possible to mend things that we have broken.

Reveal various objects for fixing:

Needle and thread [clothing] | Sellotape [paper] , Superglue [plastic] , Puncture repair kit [bike tyres], A plaster [cuts] , Icing Sugar [ginger bread houses], A blowtorch [metal beams] , Nails [wood].

What do all these things have in common? What does each fix? [suggested in brackets above]

When you fall out with one of your friends, you can't mend that with a needle and thread, or Sellotape, or superglue, or a puncture repair kit, or a plaster!

But how do you fix a relationship - when friendship, or family breaks down - what can you use to mend the damage? - Forgiveness.

Forgiveness often starts with saying a word: "sorry" - we have to mean it, and then we can use that sorry like a glue to fix all our relationships

Jesus didn't say sorry though, he said something else on the cross even as he was dying, and I want to think back on that a moment: He said "Father, forgive these people. They don't know what they are doing".

"Father": Jesus asked for help - forgiveness is not easy!

"they don't know": Jesus seeks understanding and compassion

"these people": Jesus was including everyone

Forgiveness is actually a really big thing.

In the next part of the story - the bit I did not read to you today - the true incredible power of forgiveness is shown: Jesus Lives - he's not dead, he is alive!

That's really important to Christians: I think we all understand that if you do a bad thing, you get punished - sometimes that can be a bit scary, sometimes that makes us feel like we've done such a bad thing, it can never be fixed and we want to run away from telling the truth.

But in the story of Jesus we see that FORGIVENESS is the most powerful force in the universe - more powerful than death, and more powerful than punishment or breakage. The story of Jesus is that no-one needs to run and hide because forgiveness is so wonderful.



# EASTER FORGIVENESS

BB41  
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