

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RECONCILIATION – INTER-RELATING

***Note to teachers/parents and carers.**

This work comes from the Come and See Religious Education programme which is taught in all Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have given a general guide to the learning opportunities that children may have come across under normal timetabling in school. We have suggested and selected a small amount of the programme. The activities aim to keep Religious Education practical and fun. They are in Year groups however, there is no harm in completing other year group work as this will help children to remember and strengthen their learning.

The first part of learning is called – **EXPLORE**. This shares your child's everyday experiences and helps them to see how the Catholic faith is lived in their everyday lives. The second part, called – **REVEAL** shares bible stories that links to their everyday life.

****Please note that the activities have been adapted as far as possible to adhere to social distancing guidelines. If completing the activities in school, please follow your school's Safeguarding policy.***

****Teachers may wish to adapt the following activities to suit the well-being of the children whether at home or in their care. The Reconciliation topic is an opportunity for schools to explore feelings that are/may be affecting them at this time.***

EXPLORE - Choices have consequences

In our lives we make choices – something we choose. From these choices we have consequences – a result of the choice you make. When we choose to warm up before a PE lesson, the consequence is that our bodies ready to perform at their best.

In the film Hercules, Hercules chooses to try and save Meg from the underworld. Watch this clip and see what the consequences of the choice he makes are:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LS1bftiDhdU>



Share this story together:

It was holiday time, and lots of children were playing in the park. Tom and Andrew had met some of their friends and were looking forward to a good game of football. Just then, along came Paul. “Just look,” said Tom, “he’s got his sister with him!” And there she was. Jane was dressed in her shorts and was wearing new trainers. “What have you brought her for?” asked Andrew. “I had to choose,” said Paul. “Mum said I could come if I brought Jane, but if not, I would have to play with her at home.”

“It’s all right,” said Jane, “I can play football. I’ve been practising at home, and I’ve got my new trainers.” Tom liked Jane. He’d seen her kicking a football in the school playground and knew she wouldn’t spoil the game, but he felt a bit afraid of saying so. He thought Andrew would not be friends with him if he did.

“Hurry up,” shouted the rest of the gang. “Aren’t you going to play today?” It was now or never. “Come on Jane,” said Tom, “we’d better put our football boots on and show them.” Then he turned to Andrew, “Give her a chance,” he said. The game started before Andrew had a chance to answer. And they all enjoyed it. Tom, Paul and Andrew, and of course, Jane. None of them regretted that Paul had brought his sister with him.



Choose Activities

- Discuss the story with an adult at home. What choices did the characters make? What consequences came from their choices? Talk about how the different characters felt.
- Have you made any choices recently? How did you choose and what were the consequences? Write some of these down
- Can you think of any more stories about when you may have had to think about the choices you had to make? What did you learn from the choices you made?

- Draw this table on a piece of paper at home:

Choice	Good or Wrong	Consequence

Sometimes we can make good or wrong choices, and we learn from those choices and our consequences. Think about three choices you have made, was it a good or wrong choice and what consequence came from it.

REVEAL – God has forgiven you

God is always loving and forgiving. There are many times in the Gospels where Jesus tells us this. Here is the story of the Prodigal Son, a parable that Jesus told that explains how God forgives us. Sometimes this parable is called 'The Prodigal Father' as the father in the story is prodigal in his love for his son: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfDfMZ6MTJs>



Look closely at this picture on the left. It is called 'The Return of the Prodigal Son' by Rembrandt. Can you see each of the characters: the father, the prodigal son and the older son. Which part of the story do you think this shows? Can you see what each of them are doing? What might they be thinking?

Think about these questions:

- *What did the younger son choose to do with his money?*
- *What were the consequences of his choices?*
- *What does the story tell us about the father?*
- *Who is the father like?*

From listening to the parable, we know that God is full of mercy and compassion. He always forgives us even though he does not like sin. God always loves you.



Choose Activities:

- Look at the picture on the right. This is 'The Prodigal Son' by Kristi Valiant. It shows the father who still loves his son, just like he did when he was a baby. Create your own image that shows part of the story of the Prodigal Son. Think about what your picture could show.
- Retell the story of the Prodigal Son. You might like to retell the story as if you were the Prodigal Son. How would he feel? Why does he want to return to his father? What did he think of the celebration when he returned?
- The painting by Rembrandt can be found in the State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, Russia. In art galleries, there is usually a short paragraph next to the painting that explains to visitors what the picture is about. Write one for this painting and tell people what this image means to Christians.
- Choose some words or phrases which describe the character of the father. You could put these words inside a heart or use the words as an outline.