# **Disposition: Being Merciful and Forgiving**

## **Lesson:** Two

### Question/LO: What does a story from the Bible have to say about forgiveness? What do Jewish people and Christians think about forgiveness?

| **Dimension of learning** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
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| Learning about religious traditions and non-religious world-views | Look at circumstances when it will be hard to forgive the perpetrator, e.g. the true life story of Corrie Ten Boom, latest news articles. Read Joseph story in Genesis 35:23-29; 37:1-4 and 15–36. The story is important for Jews and Christians.In groups, create character profiles for Joseph, his dad, Reuben, Judah, Simeon and Zebulon. Discuss how the different characters feel towards one another. Would this be a hard situation to forgive?Why might forgiveness be difficult for Joseph? Read Genesis 50:15-21 of how and why Joseph forgave his brothers. Note that Joseph believed that God could use an event with wicked intentions and bring a good outcome from it.This is one example from the Bible e.g. Characters offering forgivenessQuestion: Why do Jewish people and Christians think this is an important story? There is teaching within Judaism that there are separate elements to forgiveness.1. Repentance - showing that a person who has done harm is sorry.
2. Forgiveness – the victim of the wrongdoing decides not to let that action hurt them anymore. It is not the same as forgetting.

Judaism teaches that it is only the victim who can forgive the harm. Other people are not in a position to do so on their behalf.e.g. if there is an argument in the playground and one child says something hurtful to another child, the onlookers cannot with integrity forgive the offence on the victim’s belief. Only the child who was hurt has the right to do so this.Ask pupils to consider other scenarios where one person does something that offends another, yet other people want them to be forgiven. | Information regarding Corrie Ten Boom at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-3LUMbgI28](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DC-3LUMbgI28&data=05%7C01%7CJaspal.Shambi%40birmingham.gov.uk%7C22e75a1e770a4ac9f2f808db0e82157d%7C699ace67d2e44bcdb303d2bbe2b9bbf1%7C0%7C0%7C638119725013474032%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vQfQtOm0w%2B6JGMV9W%2BLDhagSi8R4jV3Q65dT30H1%2BjM%3D&reserved=0)[https://www.learnreligions.com/biography-of-corrie-ten-boom-4164625](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.learnreligions.com%2Fbiography-of-corrie-ten-boom-4164625&data=05%7C01%7CJaspal.Shambi%40birmingham.gov.uk%7C22e75a1e770a4ac9f2f808db0e82157d%7C699ace67d2e44bcdb303d2bbe2b9bbf1%7C0%7C0%7C638119725013474032%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tbyCcYOxzMtr6uWQ96NS2z1Atxzi0uGOpgSThdUf9QA%3D&reserved=0)International Children’s Bible References:Genesis 35:23-2937:1-4 and 15–3650:15-21. |
| Learning to discern | Question: Why might it be hard to forgive somethings? | n/a |