

Dottie and Buzz

Programme 5: Forgiving

Programme summary

Dottie and Buzz steal an apple from their elderly next-door neighbour's garden. They are caught but Mr Whipple, the neighbour, forgives them. They make an apple pie with windfalls, to say they are sorry, and share it with Mr Whipple.

The programme:

- Explores ideas of temptation, guilt and forgiveness
- Touches on the loneliness and sense of loss felt by some old people and the way that friendship between young and old creates a sense of community.

Introduction

Share news etc.. Ask the children if they have ever done anything naughty. What? (You might perhaps share some of your own youthful misdemeanours!) If you were an extra-saintly child with no skeletons in your cupboard - and if there is time - some of Michael Rosen's poems vividly describe his own experience of getting into a mess. See, for example, 'The Chocolate Cake' in *Quick, let's get out of here*.

Watch 'Dottie and Buzz' Programme 5

Activities

Here are two activities which could be used with this programme:

Activity One

Needs: Photocopied worksheets, paper, scissors, glue.

Task: A sequencing activity which aims to encourage children to consider why we forgive people. While the children are working, continue to talk about their own experiences of doing wrong. Did they say sorry? Have their friends ever done unpleasant things to them? Did they make it up afterwards? Talk about the programme. Why did Dottie and Buzz take the apple? Should Mr Whipple have been more angry with them? What would it have been like if Mr Whipple hadn't forgiven them?

Activity Two

Needs: Photocopied worksheets, colouring crayons.

Task: This activity is suitable for children who are beginning to read and who can make some sense of the words written on the sheet. Its aim is to encourage children to think about the feelings of other children. While they are working, ask the children about their friends - what is it that they like about them? Can they think of, say, three words that would describe their best friend? What are their teachers like - how would the children describe them? What about people that they don't like! What is it about them that makes the children feel uncomfortable?

Bible story and prayer

Read - or tell - the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). The story may be familiar, yet it still has an impact because it emphasises the forgiveness - and joy - of God. Again, it's useful to think about how the story would have ended if the other brother had got away with his resentment and the father had been unforgiving. Would anyone have been really happy?

Finish with a prayer:

Thank you, God, that you go on loving us even when we do things that are wrong. Help us, like you, to be forgiving. Amen.

Activity 1

The Apple Story

Cut out the boxes. Stick them on paper in the right order to tell the story of the apples. Colour in the pictures.



Mr Whipple hears a noise.



Dottie and Buzz see Mr Whipple's apples



Everyone eats the pie.



He finds Dottie and Buzz.



Buzz gives Dottie an apple.



Dottie and Buzz make a pie to say sorry.

Activity 2

What is Mr Whipple like?

What do Dottie and Buzz think Mr Whipple is like? Colour in the apples that describe him best.

