

“Dalawang Bata”

Peace Concepts: FORGIVENESS AND ACCEPTANCE OF ONE’S MISTAKES

I. OBJECTIVES

- A. To be able to explain the meaning of forgiving others and accepting one’s mistake;
- B. To be able to discuss forgiveness and acceptance of one’s mistake as tools in resolving conflict.

II. SUMMARY OF EPISODE

Lorena and Farida plan a picnic. They decide that Lorena will cook the viand while Farida will bring rice. They want to go to a special place beyond the mountains. On their way up their bag drops and their rice spills on the ground. This does not dampen their spirit. They both agree that they do not mind eating the viand without the rice. They get hungry before they get to their destination; and so decide to eat their lunch. When Lorena opens the viand, Farida is surprised that it is pork. As a Muslim, Farida does not eat pork; and of all people, Lorena should have known this. So she is puzzled why Lorena cooked pork. She refuses to eat it. Hungry and tired, Lorena tells Farida to eat the pork since nobody would know anyway. Farida is offended by Lorena’s comment because she feels Lorena is disrespectful of her beliefs. Frustrated and hurt, she leaves Lorena and starts walking home. Lorena also walks home but in the opposite direction. Deep into the woods, they both hear loud and scary sounds. Suddenly Farida hears Lorena shout. She runs to look for Lorena. Lorena also looks for Farida. When they finally find each other, they are so relieved that neither of them is harmed. On their way home, Lorena sincerely apologizes for forgetting that Farida does not eat pork. Farida knows it was an honest mistake and so forgives her best friend.

III. SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

A. Pre-viewing

It is effective to introduce peace concepts by using children’s real experiences.

Meaningful associations can facilitate their understanding of these peace concepts. The following discussion questions are being suggested:

- **(Recall the time you apologized.) Was it difficult? Easy? Why?**
- **Have you ever forgiven someone? Why did you forgive him/her?**
- **Was the conflict resolved after the apology?**

Summarize and integrate their experiences. Sometimes it is easy to forgive; and sometimes it is not. Often it is not easy to ask for forgiveness because we need to admit and accept our mistakes. Today, we will watch two young girls who learned a lesson in forgiveness and acceptance of one’s mistakes to resolve conflict.

B. Post-viewing

The following questions for discussion are being suggested:

- **Why was Farida angry at Lorena? What did Lorena do?**
- **How did they resolve their misunderstanding? What does it mean when we say, “I am sorry.”?**
- **Why is “accepting one’s mistakes” important? Why is “forgiving others” important? Why are both important tools in resolving conflict?**

Peaceful Endings

Divide the group into smaller groups of 4-5 members. Print or write on cards different everyday conflicts that they can easily relate to. Ask each group to pick out a card and discuss how they will resolve the conflict using the peace concepts that they have learned. They can also make up

their own story. After this, each group will present their peaceful endings through a short skit.

Some situations are:

- When you borrowed your brother’s bag, you broke the strap. You intended to tell him and offer to fix but forgot about it. When he used it, he was so angry that you did not take care of it.
- One day your classmate stopped talking to you and started avoiding you. You have no idea why.
- You accidentally tore a page from a book that you borrowed from the library. You did your best to repair it but part of the page was unreadable. If you confess, your library privileges will be affected or you will have to pay for the book. If you don’t confess, no one will know what you did but other students will not be able to use the book properly.

Journal Writing

Make Peace. Before writing on their Peace Journal, ask each child to apologize to someone they have offended or hurt in anyway. Ask them to think of how they will apologize sincerely. They need to realize what they were sorry for first. Then, they can write how it felt like before, during and after the apology. Then also write how the person reacted to their apology.

IV. FORGIVENESS AND ACCEPTANCE OF ONE’S MISTAKES AS PEACE CONCEPTS

Forgiving and being forgiven are not simple matters. When we ask for forgiveness, we cannot expect the person to forgive us just because we apologized. Further, when the person forgives us, it does not exempt us from being accountable for our mistakes. Forgiving is easier when the person feels remorse. The challenge lies in

forgiving someone who is not sincere in asking for our forgiveness. We can think of forgiving as our choice to put an end to the burden and pain caused by the person or experience. We go on in life, ideally strengthened by these difficulties.

It is not easy to accept and admit our mistakes. One is likely to see the mistakes of others and to expect an apology. If we

can turn the blame inward just for a few moments, we can truly and honestly reflect on how we could have contributed to the conflict. Did I provoke a fight? Did I do something in the past that hurt this person? If I were in this person's shoes, would I have done the same thing?

We could stop the culture of fault-finding and finger-pointing by teaching

that forgiving others and accepting one's mistakes are not signs of weakness but of courage and wisdom. This two-prong action enlists the effort from both parties to realize and admit their part in the conflict and humbly make amends. Both are indeed tools in upholding peace within and without.