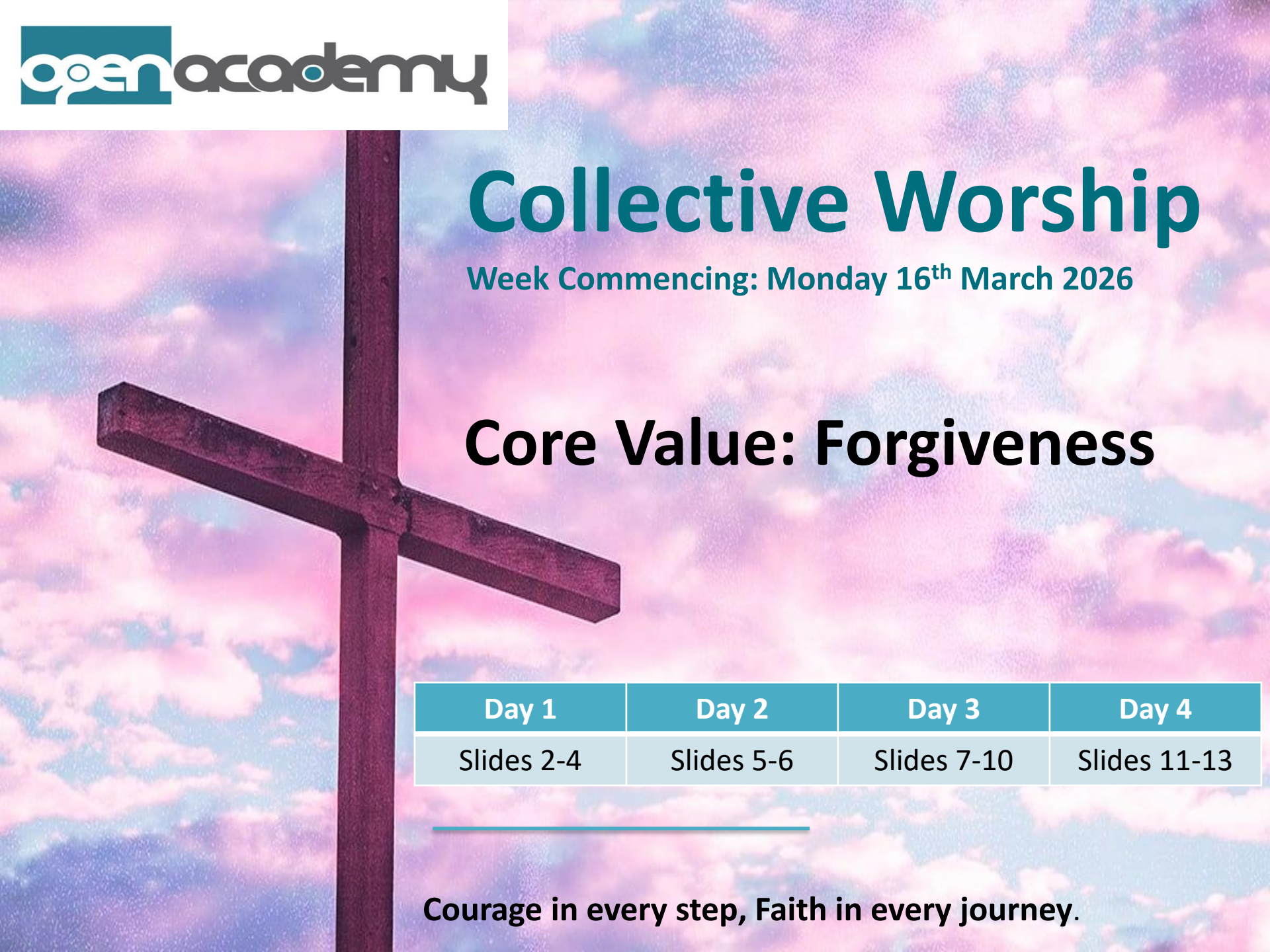


# Collective Worship

Week Commencing: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Core Value: Forgiveness

A large wooden cross is positioned on the left side of the slide, set against a background of a sky with soft, pink and blue clouds. The cross is made of dark wood and is oriented vertically with a horizontal beam across the middle.

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Slides 2-4	Slides 5-6	Slides 7-10	Slides 11-13

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**Courage in every step, Faith in every journey.**

# Opening Reflection

**Let us pause, breathe, and take a moment to reflect.**

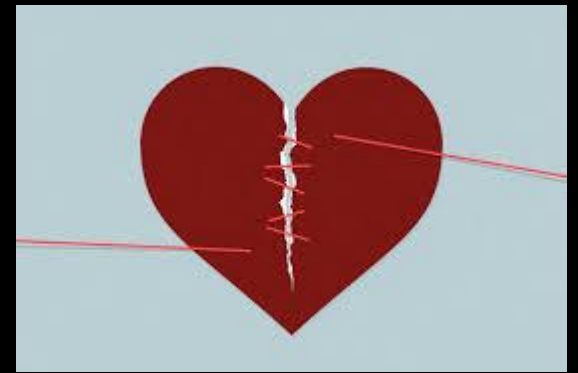
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**Dear God,  
As we gather together today, help us to reflect on the message of Easter. Thank you for the example of forgiveness shown by Jesus Christ. Help us to learn to forgive others, to say sorry when we are wrong, and to build a community filled with kindness, understanding, and new beginnings.  
Amen.**



# This Week's Theme: Forgiveness

Forgiveness means choosing to let go of anger or resentment toward someone who has hurt us and giving them the chance to make things right. It doesn't mean forgetting what happened or pretending it didn't matter—it means deciding not to let that hurt control how we treat others.



Life gives us challenges. Learning to forgive builds character and helps us become the people we are meant to be.



# forgiveness

Let go of  
resentment and offence.

## **This Week's Challenge**

- **Think of someone you may have fallen out with, argued with, or felt upset by.**
- **Take one positive step toward forgiveness.**  
**This could be saying sorry if you were part of the problem**
- **Accept someone else's apology**
- **Let go of a grudge**
- **Choose kindness instead of holding onto anger**

# A Story of Forgiveness

The Easter story tells of the final days of Jesus Christ and is the most important story in Christianity.

It begins with the Last Supper, where Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples and asked them to remember him. Soon after, he was arrested, put on trial, and sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate.

Jesus was crucified in an event known as the Crucifixion of Jesus, remembered by Christians on **Good Friday**. Even while suffering, he showed forgiveness and prayed for those who hurt him.

Three days later, Jesus' followers discovered his tomb was empty. He had risen from the dead in the Resurrection of Jesus, which is celebrated on Easter Sunday.

The message of Easter is one of **hope, forgiveness, and new beginnings.**



See the  
whole story  
here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL8R158Ujp4>

# A Story of Forgiveness

## What can we learn?

The Easter story teaches several powerful lessons about **forgiveness**.

### **1. Forgiveness can be given even when it is difficult**

During the Crucifixion of Jesus, Jesus Christ prayed for the people who were hurting him, saying “Father, forgive them.” This shows that forgiveness is not always easy, but it is a powerful choice that can break cycles of anger and revenge.

### **2. Everyone can be forgiven**

The events remembered at Easter reminds us that forgiveness is available to everyone, no matter what mistakes they have made. It encourages people to believe that **no one is beyond a second chance**.

### **3. Forgiveness brings new beginnings**

The Resurrection of Jesus shows that after suffering and wrong-doing, there can still be **hope and new life**. Forgiveness allows people and relationships to start again.

### **4. We should forgive others as we are forgiven**

The Easter story encourages people to show the same forgiveness to others that they hope to receive themselves. This can help create stronger friendships, families, and communities.

### **To summarize:**

The Easter story teaches that **forgiveness is powerful, healing, and can lead to new beginnings**—even after difficult situations.

# Reflection Questions

- **Understanding the Story**

- What are the main events in the Easter story involving Jesus Christ?
- Why do Christians believe the Resurrection of Jesus is so important?
- What message do you think the events remembered at Easter are meant to share with people?

- **Thinking About Forgiveness**

- When Jesus said “Father, forgive them” during the Crucifixion of Jesus, what does that tell us about forgiveness?
- Why do you think forgiving someone can sometimes be difficult?
- How can forgiveness help repair relationships between people?

- **Personal Reflection**

- Have you ever experienced forgiveness from someone else? How did it feel?
- Is there a situation where showing forgiveness could make a positive difference?
- What can the Easter story teach us about giving people a **second chance**?

- **Open Academy Reflection**

- How could practicing forgiveness make a school community kinder and more supportive?



## Learning About Lent

Lent is the 40-day period leading up to Easter. For Christians, it is a time of reflection, prayer, and preparation for remembering the events in the life of Jesus Christ. During Lent, many Christians choose to give something up, spend more time helping others, or focus on improving their behavior. This helps them think about the sacrifices Jesus made and prepare spiritually for Easter. Lent leads up to the final events of the Easter story: The Last Supper, when Jesus shared a final meal with his disciples. The Crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday, when Jesus died on the cross. The Resurrection of Jesus, which Christians celebrate on Easter Sunday. Because of this journey, Lent is often seen as a time to think about forgiveness, change, and new beginnings. Christians believe that by reflecting during Lent, they can better understand the message of Easter—**hope, forgiveness, and new life.**



For more info



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rV8XpwPoRvI>

# Lent Links To Forgiveness

## 1. Reflecting on our mistakes

During Lent, Christians take time to think about their actions and recognize times when they may have hurt others. This reflection encourages people to **say sorry and ask for forgiveness**.

## 2. Forgiving others

Lent is also a time to let go of grudges and repair relationships. Christians are encouraged to follow the example of Jesus Christ by showing forgiveness and kindness to others.

## 3. Preparing for the message of Easter

The journey of Lent leads to the Crucifixion of Jesus and the Resurrection of Jesus. In the Easter story, Jesus shows forgiveness even while suffering, which Christians see as a powerful example of love and mercy.

## 4. Making a fresh start

Because of this, Lent is often seen as a time to **reset, change habits, and start again**—both with God and with other people.

### To Round Up:

**Lent encourages people to reflect, apologize, forgive others, and prepare their hearts for the message of forgiveness at Easter.**



# Forgiveness: Reflection Time

## What the Resurrection Teaches Us About Forgiveness

Luke 24:6 “He is risen”

The Resurrection of Jesus 2 days after his crucifixion is the ultimate sign of hope and new life. For us today, it shows that forgiveness is not just an idea—it is **powerful and life-changing**.

When Jesus rose from the dead, he offered peace and reconciliation to his disciples, even though some had abandoned him and others had denied him. He did not hold grudges; instead, he **restored relationships** and gave a chance for a fresh start.

This teaches us that:

We can forgive others even when it is difficult.

Forgiveness can **heal broken relationships** and restore trust.

Our mistakes, or the mistakes of others, do not have to define the future.

Like the Resurrection, forgiveness allows us to **move from hurt to hope**, from anger to peace, and from guilt to growth.

### Challenge for us:

Think about one person you might need to forgive, or a situation where you could seek forgiveness. Let the story of Easter inspire you to **choose forgiveness and create a new beginning**.



# Scripture Soundbites

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Gospel of Luke 23:34



What does “forgive them for they do not know what they are doing” look like in everyday school life?

Think about moments when things get difficult to do this — how can you apply this to your learning, friendships, or personal goals?

How will this benefit our lives and the community around us?

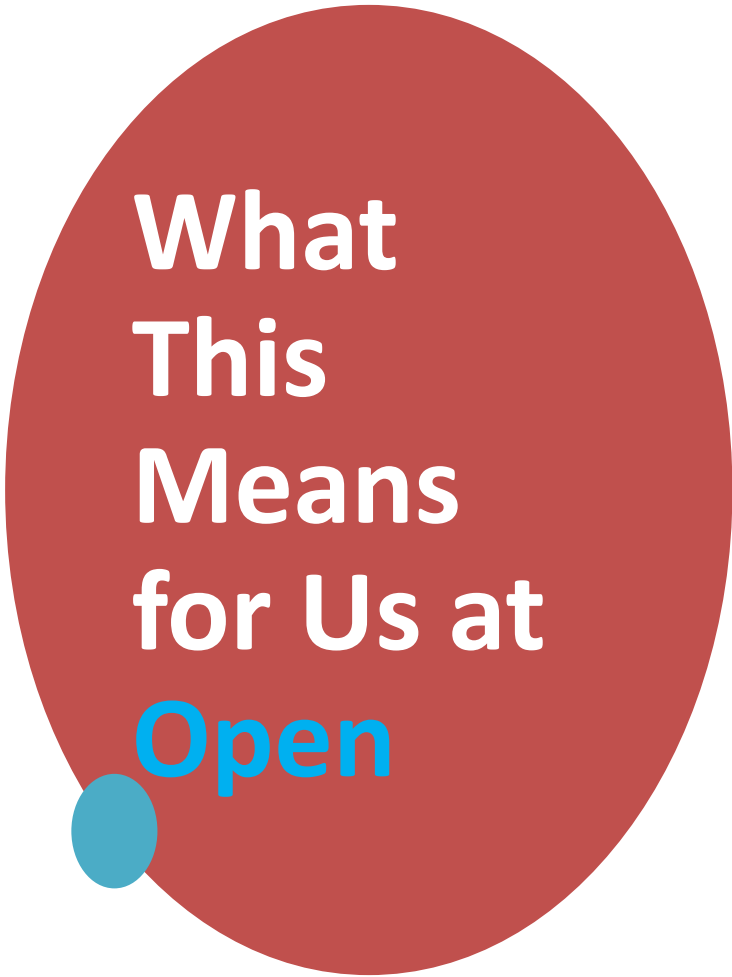
Who helps you with forgiveness when challenges arise, and how can you support others in living lives of not holding grudges?

## Food for Thought


Before reacting, take a moment to breathe and think about what happened. Ask yourself:

- Did they mean to hurt me?*
- Am I assuming intentions?*

Sometimes people act out of ignorance, stress, or their own struggles.



**What  
This  
Means  
for Us at  
Open**



**The Easter story is not just history; it is a lesson for life. It challenges us to forgive, hope, and act with love, creating a better world for ourselves and those around us.**

**John 10:10** - The Words Of Jesus

<sup>10</sup> I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

# Closing Prayer

**Dear God,**

Thank you for the message of Easter and the example of forgiveness shown by Jesus. Help us to forgive others when it is difficult and to say sorry when we need to. Help our school to be a place of kindness, understanding, and second chances.

**Amen.**



**Lewis B. Smedes**

“To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.”