



Forgiveness Element 7: Taking an Oath

Professional Ethics	Taking an Oath
<p>Age Level 10 - Adulthood</p> <p>Time 45 minutes</p> <p>Resources Reading material Print out or separate paper, pen</p> <p>Objectives</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understand the role of forgiveness in caregiving2. Practice prioritizing concern for the human family over vengeance and prejudice	<p>Teachers, Parents or Self-Guided Learners will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Practice making difficult choices that call for forgiveness.2. Learn about the oath physicians take to help everyone equally.3. Interview health care workers about how they think about their work.4. Write a personal oath to care.

Role Play Vital Choices

Experience a role play together with family members or co-learners.

You are a team of physicians and have come to the scene of a shipwreck. Three people were in the boat. You have jumped onto the boat to treat the most serious injuries and remove the patients ashore. You find that all three survivors are equally injured.

You must decide who to treat first, as you won't have time to save them all and move them safely to shore before the boat sinks. Of the three survivors:

1. One is a 20-year-old soldier from a country who opposed yours in a recent war; his ethnic background differs from yours
2. The second survivor is a 75-year-old man with a bad heart condition who was a friend of your parents.
3. The third is a 38-year-old woman you recognize, as she once stole food from your mother at the market to feed her own children.

As if you were doctors and had just one minute to make your decision, renumber the order in which you will save the patients. Next, hold a discussion to compare, consult on and decide whether to change your choices.

Did you change your mind? What factors played a role in your final decision?

Taking an Oath

Think about the oath of forgiveness required in certain professions, such as medical researchers, physicians, nurses and teachers. A doctor may have a patient who comes from a different region or cultural group. Rather than refuse to touch the patient, the doctor has taken an oath to save the patient's life. Loyalty to the human life comes first, above loyalty to tribe, country, gender or religion.

If you were in a war that ended, and you came across a soldier from the opposing side, walking home after the battle, What would you do if he stopped and asked for a glass of water or a bandage to save his life?

Discuss this question with your co-learners. Role play it, changing roles with one another.

Remember what you learned early in the unit from the Rwandan musician about the definition of freedom.

Similarly, the **Hippocratic Oath** taken by physicians includes the clause:

Whatever houses I may visit, I will come for the benefit of the sick, remaining free of all intentional injustice...

Forgiveness cannot be easily tested on a medical exam, but it is perhaps one of the most important qualities a physician must possess.

Interviews

Interview someone you know in a health care profession. Ask whether they have ever treated someone who offended them or with whom they disagreed on important issues. Ask how they put aside personal feelings to prioritize concern for the human family.

Write an Oath

Think about your future life's work. What do you hope to do or be? Write a sentence similar to the one in the Hippocratic Oath, describing your pledge to forgive and put aside hurts or biases to commit to the human family.

My Oath:

My Signature

Date: