



Resources for Schools

PHASE: SECONDARY

Does our behaviour really matter? – Racial injustice





KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

In response to the death of George Floyd and the events that followed in America the Archbishops of Canterbury and York said in a joint statement in June 2020

“Systemic racism continues to cause incalculable harm across the world. Our hearts weep for the suffering caused – for those who have lost their lives, those who have experienced persecution, those who live in fear. Let us be clear: racism is an affront to God. It is born out of ignorance and must be eradicated. We all bear responsibility and must play our part to eliminate this scourge on humanity.”

Christians believe that we are all uniquely made in the image of God and that all of us are equal before God and so should be treated with equity, fairness and justice. Jesus told his followers ‘Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.’

John 13 verses 34-35: Therefore

We stand with people everywhere who experience racism and speak out against this injustice.

Together we have the power to be the change we want to see in the world.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to injustice everywhere”.

Martin Luther King JR

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:



The parable of the good Samaritan

But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put

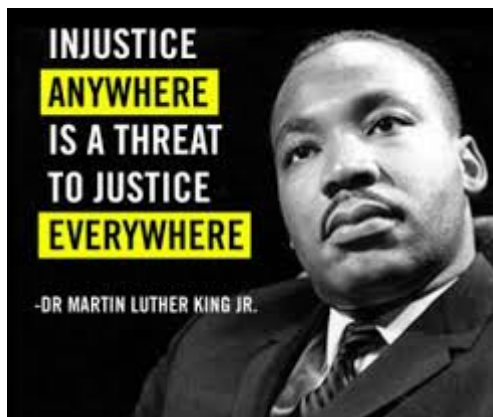
the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have."

'Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'

Gathering

Listen to this song from the film Glory about Martin Luther King

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUZOKvYcx_o



Spend a minute reflecting on this quote.

- What do you think it meant when Martin Luther King said it?
- How is it still relevant today?
- How could it apply in your life?

For Christians God says:

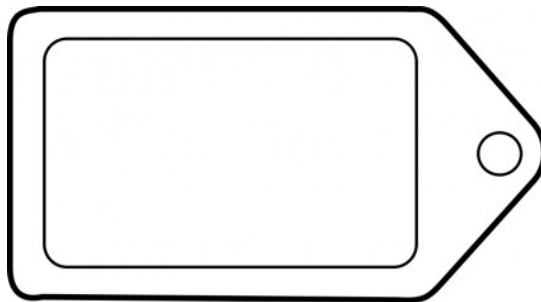
He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

—Micah 6:8

Engagement

The danger of the single story

Print out or project some photos of a selection of images of different people — a gay-pride marcher, a goth teen, a woman with missing teeth, a Muslim, — and ask the students to quickly jot down impressions on some parcel labels.



Reflect/think about why you wrote down what you did?

Think about how we judge others based on one impression or thing we have read or heard or seen on social media. This has been called the danger of the single story by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. We learn one thing about a culture or group of people and judge them by that single thing.

- What single story would people know about you? What would your label say?
- Would it be your social class or the football team you support or the type of music you like? Would it be your faith or race or gender?
- How might others judge you?

In the Bible reading, Jesus tells the story of Good Samaritan who doesn't judge the man who has been attacked by the single story that he is a Jew but sees him instead as a man in need of assistance.

American Pastor the Rev Andre Sims wrote this about the Good Samaritan parable in October 2020.

This summer, in the days following the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, friends of all races checked in on me to see how I was handling the grief, anger, and stress. They mourned with me as I mourned. They were good Samaritans caring for my immediate needs.

My wounds and those of people of colour are not as obvious as the man in the parable, but their invisibility doesn't make them any less life-threatening. My wounds cause stress and can lead to all sorts of long-term health issues. The world says that we can figure out ways to lay down that stress for a period of time so we're able to pick it up again later.

God uses His followers in His plan. He's using my brothers and sisters in the dominant culture to come alongside me and shoulder some of that burden until we can lay it down forever at the foot of the cross. He used my friends who marched alongside me. They were like the Good Samaritan getting the wounded man to the inn.

We stand with people everywhere who experience racism and speak out against this injustice.

Response

This is an uncomfortable subject for Christians who have too often not spoken out about systemic racism, who have too often been part of the system that is racist.

In these two songs two Christian music artists tackle the subject of racism

Beacon Light: 'Colour Blind' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXnXQVtZ6MA>
Mandisa ft Toby Mac and Kirk Franklin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEzCQBwQkdA> or
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVKuAIs5I3o>

- Which of these songs do you think is most powerful?
- Which of these do you think are more effective?

'We confess and lament that we have stayed silent for too long and not spoken out publicly against this hate and violence. We confess and lament that we have not stood up publicly for our oppressed and marginalized Black sisters and brothers'.

This is a quote from an American Christian website (Proverbs 31 Ministries). Carefully read or listen to these words...to what extent do you agree with these words?

Together we have the power to be the change we want to see in the world.

Sending

Reflect on the words of this prayer as we finish. It is taken from an American website in response to the Black Lives Matter protests in the summer of 2020.

Good and gracious God, Who loves and delights in all people, we stand in awe before You, knowing that the spark of life within each person on earth is the spark of your divine life.

Differences among cultures and races are multicolored manifestations of Your Light.

May our hearts and minds be open to celebrate similarities and differences among our sisters and brothers.

Give us strength and courage to speak out against injustice, and to work for the transformation of unjust systems that keep some in bondage: that we may more fully live out your kingdom here on earth; through Jesus Christ your son, who came to set us free. Amen

(From prayers published on the website of the Social justice resource center

<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/prayers/racism>)

Listen to the song 'Better days' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urR76r2VypA>

How can you help make 'Better Days'?

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

How might the single stories that you have heard influence the way you treat people?

Watch this video. From the start to 6.04

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en#t-392562

In this Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie talks about her experience as a student in America.

Think about the books you read, the history you learnt and the stories you read on social media. How often do you rely on single stories for your attitudes?



This image has become a regular feature of premier league football matches this season. Is this important? Should it continue when crowds return? What are the risks?

Note to teachers: when a small number of fans did return to football matches at the end of 2020 a small section of fans at one match did boo the players for taking this stand.

<https://www.skysports.com/football/news/11735/12152113/millwall-fans-boo-as-players-take-a-knee-in-support-of-fight-against-racial-injustice>

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

In the parable of the Good Samaritan when they get to the inn the Samaritan pays for man's ongoing care. There is cost in being a Good Samaritan, it is not easy.

- What are the attitudes you have toward others that might need to change?
- Whose stories do we need to hear more about?
- Whose stories are missing or unheard?

PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT:

Use the Examen prayer to reflect on finding a direction and the stamina to stay on track:

It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS ... for the diversity of God's creation, for each and every person made in God's image and all the gifts and talents we all have
2. ASK FOR HELP ... when you feel like you don't know what to do or what to say when you see injustice and racism.
3. REFLECT ... on when and how you jump to conclusions or judge people without knowing their full story
4. SAY SORRY ... for the times when you have not spoken up or have gone along with others prejudices through ignorance or your own deliberate choice
5. DECIDE ... what you need to do to learn more and to stand with those that experience injustice and to speak out.

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Discussion starters for groups:

Nai'm's story

In the parable of the Good Samaritan at first people that could have helped didn't and passed by on the others side. *'A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.'*

Watch the news clip embed in this article.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-50331687>

- Was this the schools fault?
- What more could the school do?

- What could your school do?
- What more could you do?

Racism is not just about the actions of individuals; it is embedded in our systems. We need to be thinking about how we can ensure the system protects and provides justice. If we don't, we are like those that walk by on the others side.

This is an uncomfortable subject for Christians who have too often not spoken out about systemic racism, who have too often been part of the system that is racist. In these two songs two Christian music artists tackle to subject of racism

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COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – OUR APPROACH

INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?



Resources for Schools

PHASE: SECONDARY

THEME: Lent





KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

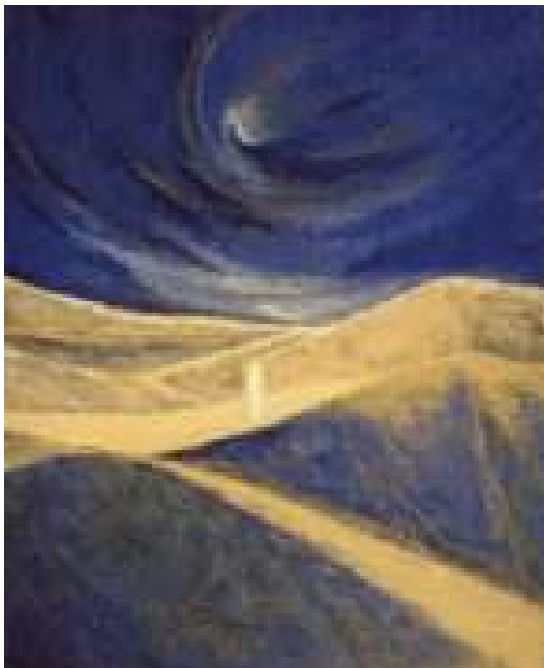
Does our behaviour really matter? In JK Rowling's book: Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Albus Dumbledore says **"We must all face the choice between what is right and what is easy."**

Lent offers Christians a time to reflect on their behaviour and the choices they have made for example if they have been selfish or if they have taken time to think of others. It is a time to prepare, and rethink. A time to seek reconciliation, a renewal of faith and a new direction. Lent enables Christians re-evaluate their conduct and relationships in all aspects of their life and to look at the direction life is leading them.

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

Jesus is tested in the wilderness: Matthew 4: 1-11 New Revised Standard Version

Jesus in the Desert: Macha Chmakoff



4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil. ² After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.' ⁴ Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."^[b] ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down.

For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."^[c]

⁷ Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."^[d] ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. ⁹ 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'Away from

me, Satan! For it is written: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."^[e] ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Gathering

(Something you may want to try as each student, or any adult arrives to model how they can greet each other, or you can use 'Peace be with you')

Start your time together by saying something positive to each other as a greeting: I hope you have a great day today.....

Said reflection: I wonder....

Does the way we behave really matter? why?

What difference does making the right choice, have on us?

Is what is right always easy to achieve?

If it is too easy could it be wrong?

How does it make you feel?

Take a few moments to think about how behaviour and choices impacts on you and others around you or who you know.

Engagement

The film Hail Caesar! follows a day in the life of Eddie Mannix, a Hollywood fixer for Capitol Pictures in the 1950s, who cleans up and solves problems for big names and stars in the industry. At times Eddie's life is filled with the dilemma of making the right choices and decisions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UILLd-uBMk4>

Reflect/think about a time: In the clip the Eddie has gone to talk through things with a priest, his lifestyle choices and behaviour.



Why do you think Eddie felt the need to talk things through?

What impact had Eddie's choices had on him?

When Eddie talks about a decision he has to make, the Priest talks about the inner voice and listen to the voice until you hear what is right.

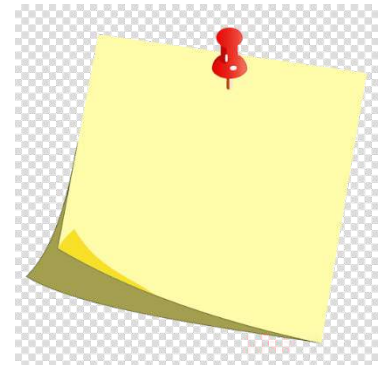
Have you ever had an experience like Eddie's?

In the Bible reading from St Matthew's gospel, Jesus has been led into the wilderness at a pivotal moment in his life. He has just been baptised by John the Baptist and he is about to start his ministry. The wilderness is a place where traditionally believed to be a place where ordinary life is suspended, a place of reflection, a place where new possibilities can emerge. In the Christian tradition the wilderness or desert is seen as a place of danger and temptation, as well as a place of solitude with God. In the story, Jesus is led by the Spirit to take time out to be with God. It is a time for questioning what God wants him to do. A time of choices and fulfilment of prophecy and destiny. A time of silence to listen to the inner voice. However, it is also a time when doubt and challenge creep in. Matthew's account highlights this in the form

of the devil offering an easy alternative. Jesus is challenged to making the right choice. One choice will be the more difficult but the result will be a life which is the one God has ordained Jesus to lead, or the easy one which will lead Jesus away from God's plans.

Response

Give each person a 'post it' note and two different coloured pens: Ask if they had a difficult decision who would they turn to for help and advice to talk things through or do they seek out a place where they can find 'silence' to discern what to do? and to write the name of the person or place on the 'post it'.



Does the inner voice ring with a louder tone when you are torn between two choices?

How do you know which one is the better?

Ask them to plead their case for choices being between right and easy, being selfless or selfish.

or

host a silent debate using the question 'Does our behaviour really matter? why?'

Sending

Conclude with I wonder....

How you might help people who are trying to change and from poor choices to better choices?

What do you feel are the important words or phrases of encouragement that someone needs to hear to help them move forward?

Write them down on your 'post it' note and keep this note safe to look at in the coming weeks to encourage you and enable you to support friends and family, when considering choices and responses.

Share one of the following prayers



Deep Listening

God of silence and God of all sound,
help me to listen.
Help me to do the deep listening to the
sounds of my soul,
waiting to hear your soft voice calling me
deeper into you.
Give me attentive ears
that begin to separate the noise from the
sounds that are you;
you who have been speaking to me

and through me my whole life,
for so long that you can seem like background noise.
Today help me hear you anew.

- Author Unknown

You showed us through the life of your Son Jesus Christ,
that You are willing to do something different for the sake of generosity.
Please give us hearts of compassion like yours
and help us to be alert to those in need of Your transforming love.
Help us to be ready to be changed ourselves as we reach out to others.
Show us ways to restore our relationships, our community and our world.
We ask this, in the precious name of Jesus
and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

40 Acts - Stewardship

May we be agents of peace and change so that we may reflect selfless love and generosity to everyone we meet today.
Amen



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

How might choices and random acts of kindness and generosity help us grow?

Watch this video clip from the film the Fight Within and hear how a chance decision to act generously to a stranger, leads to an unexpected exploration about making decisions and choices.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOzp6lplsNY>

What do you think prompted the man to buy and share pizza? What other things were shared other than pizza? Who benefitted from the encounter?

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:



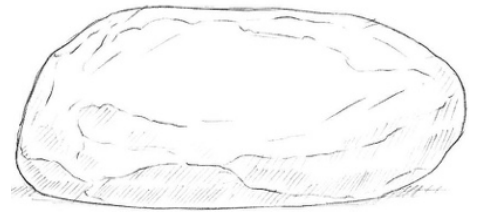
In the Christian tradition the word stone or rock has many symbolic meanings. The word stone and rock are used over 400 times in the bible and signify strength, steadiness, protection and durability. 'So I will call you Peter, which means "a rock." On this rock I will build my church, and death itself will not have any power over it.' (Matthew 16:18) Peter had followed Jesus but he had not always behaved well or made good choices in his life. However, Peter was the first to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus knew that Peter would go onto betray him but did not give up on Peter. He could see how in the future, he could trust Peter and how

Peter would ensure that the message of salvation for God's people would spread across the world. Read the account (Matthew 19:13-18)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the

Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be[d] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be[e] loosed in heaven.” Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Draw a stone and cut it out or find a small stone from the garden wash and dry it and use an indelible Sharpie) or glitter glue pen. Think about all the good habits, actions and behaviours you want to develop or improve e.g. kindness, selflessness, faithful generosity etc. Then place your ‘stone’/‘rock’ somewhere in your room where you will see it every morning and evening as a reminder of your intention.



PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT:

Create a prayer doodle using the verse: ‘So I will call you Peter, which means "a rock." On this rock I will build my church, and death itself will not have any power over it.’

(Matthew 16:18)

Draw a shape around it and begin to doodle.

Pray as you draw and ask God to be part of this prayer time.

Keep drawing as you release these prayers to God

Prayer at the end of your doodle

Dear Lord

I pray for hope and for my faith to grow.

I pray for a generous heart and a forgiving nature

I pray for wisdom and loving kindness

That I may always hear your voice when doubt creeps in

Amen

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Discussion starters for groups:

Are we always in full control of our choices and our actions?

Are we here to learn that the hard decisions we have to make are what helps us grow as humans? why?

What is the impact of making the right choices?

How can other people’s behaviour help or hinder us in our choices and decisions?

What could we say to help them reflect on what they are doing?

Who can you see in the Bible who had to make difficult decisions and make the right choice, who were asked to trust the ‘inner voice’ and keep faith with God?

How does God enable us to get back on track – does this give us clues of how to help others?’

How are we through acts of generosity and kindness God’s Children?

INVITATIONAL

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Resources for Schools

PHASE: SECONDARY

Does our behaviour really matter? – Modern Day Slavery





KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

There are an estimated 40 million people held in slavery today (Global Slavery Index 2018), more people than at any other point in history. 77% of UK companies believe there is a likelihood of slavery somewhere in their supply chain (Ethical Trading Initiative 2016). Around 200,000 girls work as enslaved people in the fashion industry in the Tamil Nadu area of India alone (Safia Minney, 2017).

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless and see that they get justice.' Proverbs 31:8-9

It is probable that your students will want to do something to help end slavery. Please encourage that. However, students should never approach either those they think are enslaved or who they think might be enslavers, instead they should report their concerns to a trusted adult or the police! But there are actions we can all do that will help students understand that they can help make the world a better place.

- be aware
- spot the signs
- seek to shop 'slave free'

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

Psalm 10



You, LORD, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror. [Psalm 10 NIV - Psalm 10 - Why, LORD, do you stand far - Bible Gateway](#)

Gathering

Be Aware

The Clewer Initiative is the campaign set up by the Church of England to raise awareness of modern slavery, identify victims and to help provide victim support. As part of this they have written The Freedom Prayer which we will use through this worship.

Freedom prayer part 1

On this holy ground of worship
In this sacred place of prayer
We have heard the voice of freedom
Crying 'Let my people go.'

All

Father/God of freedom,
Who leads us into life,
Deliver us from every evil:
And make of us
Deliverers of others.



THE CLEWER
INITIATIVE



Look at the picture.

What point do you think the photographer was trying to make?

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/ipad/human-slavery-not-just-sex-workers/story-fn6t2xlc-1226169117834>

Engagement

Now watch this version of the first part Psalm 10, the Bible passage of the week
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSLqyI-KB3A&list=PLkaqIn7jUisldwcrNDaiH-HvsVxps9wiS&index=9&t=3s>

What does this Psalm written about 3000 years ago have to say about modern slavery?

Spotting the signs

Watch this trailer for a longer campaign that the Clewer Initiative are running
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iXsZeGHFuM&t=7s>

This is shocking and it is all around us in the UK
Who may be a slave?

- Appearing scared, avoiding eye contact, or being untrusting.
- Showing signs of injury, abuse, and malnourishment.
- The person may look unkempt, often in the same clothing and have poor hygiene.
- They may be under the control and influence of others.
- Living in cramped, dirty, and overcrowded accommodation.
- Lacking appropriate clothing or safety equipment for the work they are doing.
- They may have no access to identification, like a passport or driving licence.
- The person may be collected very early, or returned late at night, on a regular basis.
- They may be isolated from the local community and their family



Freedom Prayer part 2

Where chains restrain God's chosen
children
Where humans trade in kin and skin
May our words pass on your promise
Of a land where liberty is sweet

All

Father/God of freedom,
Who leads us into life,
Deliver us from every evil:
And make of us
Deliverers of others.

Response

Seek to shop 'slave free'

Fighting modern day slavery is something best left to the Police and those who are trained to work in this difficult area, but we can all do something, we can all take responsibility. Watch this American Anti-slavery spoken word about of our responsibility!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xyb5HLq87c>

We come into contact with slavery every day without realising it - through our morning coffee, the technology we use, or the clothing hanging in our wardrobes. Many everyday products we buy are made by people trapped in slavery. In fact, of the 40 million people estimated to be trapped in slavery, over 25 million are thought to be in forced labour, working in quarries, farms, warehouses, and factories all over the world.

Modern slavery is quite literally woven into the fabric of our everyday lives. The clothing industry is one of the biggest drivers of modern slavery across the globe, with fast fashion brands creating a false sense of urgency to own the latest trends. One item could include materials from many different places, so tracing supply chains can be very difficult.



Do you ever check if the clothes you buy are slavery free? Watch this advert for *Fabric for freedom*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ozj0_uhjBkk



What about the Chocolate you buy?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqG4N27UHNk>

Freedom prayer part 3

Give us faith to face the Pharaohs
Who line their pockets from this plague
Send us as salvation's sponsors
Willing servants; slaves to love

All

Father/God of freedom,
Who leads us into life,
Deliver us from every evil:
And make of us
Deliverers of others.

Sending

Watch this version of the second part of Psalm 10 our bible passage for the week

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbpNARlZ08c&list=PLkaqln7jUisldwcrNDaiH-HvsVxps9wiS&index=11&t=15s>

Loving God

We call to you with hearts in pain for all in our world
who suffer the horrors of modern slavery;
for all who dream of a better life in another place only to be trapped, tricked and traded;
for all those who labour, forced and unseen, to make our everyday possessions;
for all who agonise for loved ones lost into this trade in humans.

Your Son came to bring good news to the poor and freedom for the oppressed –
May we too be voices against oppression, channels of good news;
May our eyes be opened wide to all who suffer in our midst but out of sight.
All this we pray to you, loving God, for whom no one is invisible.

Amen.

Written by the Revd Rachel Carnegie, Executive Director of the Anglican Alliance

Listen again to the song 27Million by LZ7 that was used in the Faith at home video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1muXgbGyV4>

Or if you would prefer something more reflective try this song 'Slave to silence' by Peter Classey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVFEBauKgl8>

For a minute reflect in silence...is there anything you could do to make a difference to this situation.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

The final verse of the freedom prayer refers to:

*Give us faith to face the Pharaohs
Who line their pockets from this plague
Send us as salvation's sponsors
Willing servants; slaves to love*

What bible story is this referring to? And do you think the comparison is fair?
Who are today's 'Pharaohs'? What are the plagues?

Design or make a piece of art to illustrate this section of the prayer.

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Every retailer should have a Modern-Day Slavery statement on their website. Next time you go shopping online check this statement is there and what it says.

One charity that campaigns to end modern slavery is International Justice Mission. They have various campaigns that older students and those at universities can get involved in to raise awareness for example a clothes swap <https://www.ijmuk.org/students> could you adapt any of these ideas for your school.



PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT:

Use the Examen prayer to reflect on finding a direction and the stamina to stay on track:

It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

I. GIVE THANKS ... for all those that campaign and work to raise awareness of modern slavery.

2. ASK FOR HELP ... for all those trapped in slavery today, that the world would listen to their cries and that they may be freed.
3. REFLECT ... on what you could do to in the words of the proverb *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.*
4. SAY SORRY For the times that you have failed to even think about how the things you consume have been made
5. DECIDE ... to as far as you can seek to buy slave free products.

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Discussion starters for groups:

October 18th each year is Anti-slavery awareness day. What could you do to mark this?
<https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/anti-slavery-day-2021/>

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – OUR APPROACH

INVITATIONAL

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INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?

faith at home

Resources for Schools
PHASE: SECONDARY

– Easter

faith at
home



KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

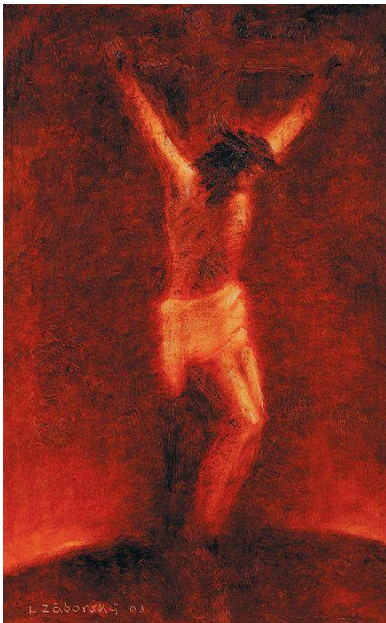
At Holy Week and Easter, Christians celebrate their belief in salvation and the reconciliation of God with his people. They believe that God in raising his son Jesus from the dead, signals the destruction of the power of sin and death forever. It is seen as a redeeming sacrifice, reconciling God and humans. Christians believe that freedom was gained by the costly love of Jesus shown in his free choice to die. Jesus, though totally innocent, died for their sins and no other, than the Son of God was able to do that. A death once and for all.

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

Crucifixion: Ladislav Záborský

The crucifixion and death of Jesus

Luke 23:32-47 New International Version



The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the Jews. One of the criminals who hung there, hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Gathering



Something you may want to try as each student, or any adult arrives, to model how they can greet each other:

Start your time together by saying something positive to each other as a greeting: perhaps "I hope you have a great day today....."

Or you can say 'Peace be with you'. Take a moment to think of times you've been truly wronged, in small ways or big ones. Maybe someone stole something, turned others against you, broke an agreement, cheated on you, or spoke unfairly or abusively.

I wonder....

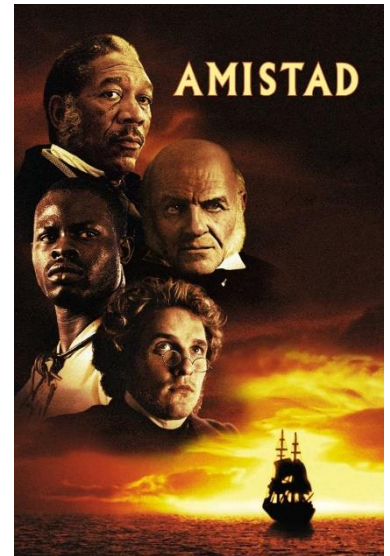
Who did it involve? What happened? How did you respond? Were you able to forgive them? And why?

If it is really hard to forgive people, why might that be? What was the impact on you then? Now?

Engagement

In January 1839, 53 Africans were kidnapped from eastern Africa and sold into the Spanish slave trade. They were imprisoned aboard the Spanish slave ship La Amistad, bound for Havana, Cuba. In 1997 the film Amistad, directed by Steven Spielberg, retold the story. During their journey, the Mende people break free and kill some of the crew. Trying to sail home they get lost and are finally captured off Long Island, America. Consequently, the courts must decide whether the Mende are slaves and murderers, or legally free being wrongfully abducted and enslaved. As they await their fate one of the Mende is given a Bible:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONbUs4uekIs>



Reflect/think what you observed in the film. In the clip, the two Mende discuss what they see in the pictures:



What do you think is their understanding of the story?

What was the impact of seeing the central character of the bible story wronged? How did what they saw in the pictures in the bible, and the assessment of what they thought the story of the man was about, resonate with their own situation? Discuss your thoughts and ideas with a partner.

Christians believe that Jesus, throughout his ministry, reached out to those who had been wronged, oppressed or who had been marginalised by society. For those who have suffered themselves, it can be comforting to know that Jesus himself suffered and was mistreated; that he is someone who can truly empathise with their situation.

If you are hurt, what difference does it make talking to others who have been hurt too?

Watch [Louis Armstrong Let My People Go - YouTube](#)

How do some Christians' link the story of Moses and the Exodus and the death and resurrection of Jesus? Why might the story of the Exodus resonate with that have suffered discrimination and injustice?

Response

Create a large cross shape using A1 Flip Chart Paper. Write on the sheets the word 'Relationship'. Then randomly tear the sheets. Give each person 3 plasters and a Biro or Sharpie pen and follow the instructions below to create their response to the broken relationships cross:

- Ask everyone to think about the question: How do you respond when someone wrongs you?
- How does it help to know that someone else has felt what I am experiencing?
- What can we do to advocate for those who do experience wrong treatment?



Ask them to consider:

- Are some things easier to write than to say when asking for forgiveness or receiving an apology?
- How do you know when the act of reconciliation is truly heart felt and sincerely received?
- Ask whether they are thinking about broken relationships close to home or huge, global situations of conflict.

Finally ask if they would like to come forward and mend where the cross is torn with their plasters, and if they wish to share which word or phrase they have chosen and why.

Sending

Conclude with 'I wonder....'

- How you might support family and friends who are trying to make amends for times when they have been wronged or got things wrong?
- What do you feel when someone forgives you and your relationship/friendship is healed?
- How might you transform your approach to life by thinking of others' needs first no matter what?

Share one of the following prayers.

Reconciliation



Loving God,
you have reconciled us in Christ Jesus
and have given us the ministry of reconciliation.
We pray for all those from whom we are estranged.
Bring healing to strained or broken relationships.
Forgive us for the times we have wronged others,
whether by ignorance, neglect, or intention.
Grant us the courage and the grace to seek their forgiveness
and opportunity to make amends.
Where others have wronged us,
grant us a gracious spirit,
that we might forgive
even as we have been forgiven in Jesus Christ. Amen.

~ Author unknown

This Easter Lord,
Enable us to right our wrongs
Enable us let go of pain, sorry and resentment
so that we may reflect in all we do today and in the future the easter message of faith, love and hope.
Give us the courage to be agents of reconciliation and advocates of forgiveness
in our friendships, families and our communities
For ever celebrating your saving sacrifice
Amen

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Meditation on the Cross: Print out or show the 4 pictures of *The Easter Story* by Joe Cavazos ask students to focus on the four pictures in turn and read the following.

Picture 1: The resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to the Christian faith. It is mentioned over one hundred times in the New Testament. Without it there is no such thing as the Christian faith. Long ago a man named Job asked the big question, that sooner or later every human being has to face. *If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.* (Job 14:14) This same question is still asked today, "Is this life all that there is? Is death the end? Or is there life beyond the grave? How is it possible for anyone to know the answer to these questions?" Some Christians' believe the answers to these questions and Job's question can be found in the Easter story and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Picture 2: Crucifixion is intended to degrade the person being crucified. The ultimate Roman punishment. It strips the person of honour and encourages people to abuse those condemned. In the Bible reading from St Luke's gospel, Jesus has been led to the place of execution following his trial. Luke's account tells of how Jesus is crucified alongside two other criminals. Reflect: What emotions might the criminals have felt when they realised they were going to be crucified alongside Jesus?

Picture 3: In the story of the death of crucifixion and death of Jesus, even as he is dying, the bible highlights the belief that Jesus right to then end, practices what he has been preaching, that is, forgiveness. Christians at this time of year also look closely at the words which are exchanged between Jesus and the two criminals. One of the criminal's taunts Jesus to prove he is the saviour of the world. The other however, recognises who, for Christians, Jesus is and the wrong that is being done to him. He asks Jesus to not forget him when he comes into His kingdom. For Christians, this conversation highlights how it is never too late to recognise and admit when you have got things wrong. To believe also that Jesus who came to heal the world is always there and ready to save and reconcile God's people to their heavenly Father. The interaction between the criminals and the plea from Jesus, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." sits within the heart of the Easter message for Christians.

Picture 4: Christians celebrate all that is within the last hours of Jesus' life and the story of his resurrection through services of Holy Week and on Easter Day. In the Christian tradition the Easter celebration is one of a wrong righted. The death and resurrection of God's Son, Jesus, restoring God's people and opening up eternal life for all with a new understanding of forgiveness, atonement, reconciliation and salvation.



[Jesus Resurrection - YouTube](#)

How has the film maker, portrayed the resurrection? Why have they filmed it this way? Does it tell you anything about faith stance of the film maker? Do you think this scene is 'true' to the Christian message? Why?

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

The celebration of Easter for Christians around the world is an important holy day and holiday. It is an occasion celebrated to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time when special foods are eaten and homes and churches are decorated with candles, eggs, lambs, flags, butterflies, lilies, easter trees and gardens or palm branches. The Easter symbols in the decorations, are a blend of Paganism, Christianity and Judaism and linked to the concept of new life and sacrifice.

Explore and research the origins of the symbolism found in easter decorations. Does it matter that this symbolism is drawn from more than one faith tradition?



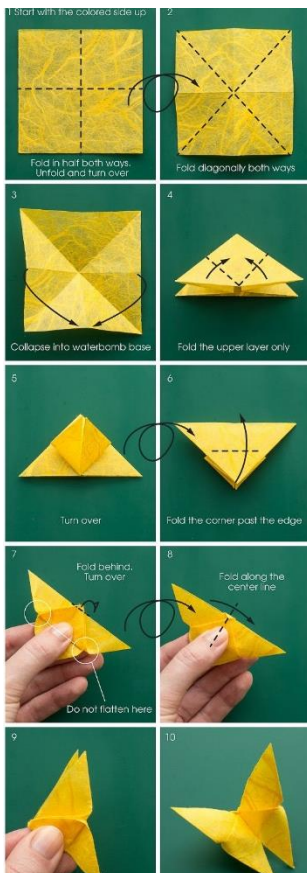
PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT:

The butterfly is one image and symbol of resurrection and new life used in Christian homes at this time of year. Although butterflies aren't mentioned in the Bible, their lifecycle is seen by some Christians as a remarkable illustration of the transforming work of Jesus Christ in the lives of believers. The Bible says that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new creation. The old life is gone, and the new life has begun (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Easter message is one of new life in Christ, of faith, hope, love and eternal life. Write on the square paper in each of the four quarters the name of someone or your own name, you wish to pray for or remember using the focus of **faith**, **hope**, **love** and **eternal life**:

- **Faith** - name a person who is struggling or searching for faith in God or suffering from illness
- **Hope** – name a person or group or area which is reflecting hope to other people of in need
- **Love** – give thanks for/ name a time when you have seen God's love in action
- **Eternal Life** – name a person or a family who has had a loved one die recently or an area of the world which has suffered a tragedy

Using a square piece of paper and follow the instructions on the illustration to create your prayer butterfly.

If you would like Pray as you fold your butterfly



Prayer at the end of creating your prayer butterfly

*Father God, thank you for sending Jesus Christ
to be an example of someone who walked in love and sought peace,
even in the hardest circumstances.*

*I ask that you to give me eyes to see the other person
in my broken relationship(s) in the way that you see them.*

Give me the ability to forgive as you forgive.

Loving God help me to love in the same unconditional way that you do.

In this relationship, for your will to be done. Amen

*Thank you, Father, for sending your Son,
Jesus, to be our example,
but even more we thank you
that we are reconciled to you through him. Amen*

*Loving Jesus be with us in all every aspect of our life today
Help us to recognise your healing love this Eastertide
Help us to act with love and be agents of reconciliation now and always, Amen.*

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Discussion starters for groups:

Jesus said: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." How easy is it to be a forgiving person? What are the challenges to live out this statement in our lives?

What could we do and/or say to create a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness in our homes and communities? How would we know if we had succeeded?

Who can you see in the Bible and in history who laid down their lives for:

- their faith
- for others

How does the account of the death and resurrection of Jesus and the message of eternal life:

- impact on our cultural view of death? Why?
- enable Christians to face the challenges and choices of life? Why?

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Resources for Schools

PHASE: SECONDARY

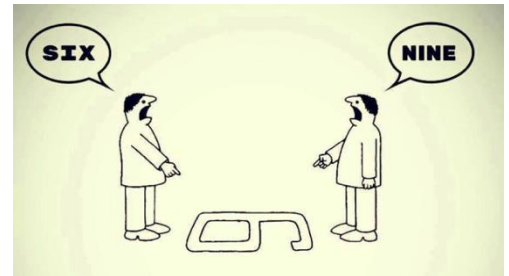
Diversity and Inclusion



KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

"We need to eliminate the concept of division by class, skills, race, income, religion, and nationality. Every human requires food and water to survive and every human has a heart that bleeds, loves, and grieves." Suzy Kassem.

It feels easy to spot things that divide us and make us different – Divide the world into Them and Us. It can be too easy to exclude 'Them' whilst only including 'Us' in the good things, the fun things, the nice things.



But just as we are all made different – Christianity teaches that we are all created in God's image, all are known and loved by God, all are precious in His sight.

How can we develop ways of looking at someone so that we see God's image and spirit within them? How can we act and speak that encourages everyone, empowers everyone, includes everyone?

How can we celebrate difference? How can we celebrate the things that unite us? How can we celebrate the good in everyone?

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

There are many Bible passages that speak of diversity and inclusion: Galatians 3:28 is about all being equal, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 is about everyone having a part to play in Christ's body (the church), and Colossians 1:16-17 is about everything being created by God in Christ Jesus.



The Bible passage below most explicitly reminds us that when we are in heaven, God's Kingdom to come, we will all be together and will worship together and all will be united:

Revelation 7:9-10 – "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

Gathering

Spend a few moments listing the things that are different about us.

Then spend a few moments listing the things that are the same about us.

Have a brief discussion about which felt easier to list, which felt more uncomfortable to name, about whether is made you anxious naming something about yourself that is different – or someone talking about something that you recognise in yourself.

When we look back at the two lists – which differences are not as straightforward as you think, which similarities may still be different for some.

If God's image is within us (see Genesis 1:27: 'So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.')

What is it, about us, that is in God's image?

Engagement

We all have rights. Children and Young people have rights that our country has agreed to:

https://www.unicef.org.uk/child-rights-partners/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2016/08/CRC_summary_leaflet_Child_Rights_Partners_web_final.pdf

Watch one of these short films about rights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRGhrYmUjU4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTlrSYbCbHE>(stop at 03:55)

But we all have responsibilities to stand up for these rights – for ourselves and each other. E.g. If we have the right to freedom of speech then we also have the responsibility to allow others to speak and be heard. Which rights are easy to have, easy to lose, easy to stand up for, difficult to fight for?

How can you be a champion for the rights of all people in your community?

Sometimes being different means others choose what is important for us.
Sometimes they make good choices, sometimes bad choices and sometimes
they ask us first, sometimes not.

Can you write a charter for your group that says how you think people should be included and supported?

In the UK there are ‘protected qualities’ in our laws around equality: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

These are all ways that people have been made to feel excluded by their community, country, workplace and the world around them. Shaun Dellenty has written a book called 'Celebrating Difference', about a whole-school approach to LGBTQ+ inclusion. Within the book he recommends a simple strategy for 'checking in with ourselves' with regards to how we feel about difference and how this can lead to prejudice. He calls it 'Place your Prejudice on your Palm', or PPOP, and the concept below is included with permission from Shaun. Prejudice is a preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or



actual experience. We often pick up these ideas and do not know how or why. Shaun recommends that people visualise their prejudices on their palm and ask themselves questions, bringing **curiosity not judgement** to these. In going through a process like this, Shaun hopes that the fingers will not close around the prejudice thoughts we have and create a fist, which would lead to damage to those who are different to ourselves.

- Invite pupils to imagine the thoughts and feelings they sometimes have about people who are different which might feel negative in some way.
- Reassure pupils to not feel shame about these things that they sometimes think or feel, but instead to be curious about these ideas and to wonder for themselves about these thoughts and feelings and why they are there.
- There is no need for anyone to ever reveal what these thoughts and feelings are and the emphasis is always on being curious instead of being judgemental.



You might invite pupils to ask themselves questions such as:

- What are my prejudices towards people who are different?
- If I could imagine my prejudices here on my palm, what would they look like, feel like, taste like, smell like?
- If I give a voice to my prejudices, what does that sound like?
- What texture would my prejudices have- are they bumpy or spikey? Could I hurt myself on them?
- Why are they here? Where did they come from?

Response

Listen to this song by Bethel. Consider how we might respond to people if we believed that they were a child of God, loved by Him and trying their best to make it through the day in the only way they know:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_bj6mjUj7k

When people try to make decisions for us because they think they know best – how can we respond with respect and dignity to stand up for our rights and offer our own suggestions.

When we see others being discriminated against because of the way they look, the language they speak or the way their body looks or acts – how can we show ourselves to be models of inclusion, celebrators of diversity and encouragers of those who normally get left out or held back.

Sending

Try looking at the world in a different way:

What would it look like if you couldn't climb steps, if you were sitting down instead of standing up.

What would it look like if you couldn't see colours and red warning signs were grey.

What would your school look like if you didn't understand the languages around you very easily?

What would your class be like if noise and the presence of people was overwhelming and made you panic?

How would you walk around your community and react to people who looked like they could do with some help? Would you walk past things on the floor and ignore hazards? Would you laugh at someone struggling or move away from someone different to you?

Now put on some imaginary glasses – the way God might see the world – where everyone deserves a chance, where everyone deserves to feel safe, loved and cared for. Now step out with your eyes open to the world around you and the choices in front of you.

Finish by reading again this passage from the Bible.

Revelation 7:9-10 – "After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'"

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

This film is about a toy that helps us to consider other people's perspectives, grow empathy for others and learn communication in new ways. How might a toy like this change your school?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMfaHYQ5Vok&t=31s>

If you have space to do this, try this:

Ask your group to group themselves together according to the shoes that they are wearing.

Colour, style, laces/no laces, zips, tags, brand name. Groups don't have to be the same size or anything.

One or two may feel left out as they don't feel they fit anywhere.

Ask them now to spend a minute finding out common things within that group apart from shoes – hobbies, interests, likes, dislikes...is there one thing that unites them all?

They most likely will find it difficult to unify around one thing.

Now ask the groups to split up and re-group according to hobbies or things they like doing.

Sports, tv watching, eating, going out, staying in. Is this easier to do? Is it an activity that sounds more exciting and happier?

Often, we group people according to what we think they will be like. E.g. Everyone who looks like that will like doing this. Everyone from that community likes this kind of food/music/fashion. Everyone who has this kind of disability will always want to talk about the same thing/need a wheelchair/walk with a stick.

Does this happen to you? Does it make you feel good or does it make you cross/frustrated/sad that no one asks you? How can we make better decisions about the judgements and choices we make in future?

Can you remember a time when someone made an assumption about you that was wrong?

Do you feel you can share it? (If not, don't worry – you don't have to).

Did it help you or hinder you? Did it start a conversation about what you needed or make a conversation difficult to have?

Have you ever assumed something about someone and it was right? If you had misjudged – what would have been the consequence?

Spend a few minutes talking, or play some music (e.g. One of Us by Joan Osborne or Martyn Joseph) and think about these questions. Ask God for forgiveness, and His help to make it different next time.

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Pick a Role Model:

Choose someone who could be a role model for you this week.

(You may have several that you follow already – choose one of these).

Consider what it is about them that makes them a role model.

What about them makes them stand out for you? Is it their character, personality or confidence?

Is it their life story and something about their journey so far? Their faith, their vision or their resilience?

Could you write, draw or create something that reminds you of the thing you admire and the thing you want to be like? A picture, a poster, a poem or piece of writing, a slogan or quote to keep in your room, on your wall, in your pocket, on your phone?

In what ways could you find out more about them this week.

In what ways could you choose a couple of things they do or ways they act that you could try this week.

At the end of the week, think about whether anyone noticed the difference in you.

Gratitude Diary:

At the beginning of the day think of something to do that will show your gratitude: post a card, say something to someone, send a message. Try and vary the people you are sending them to.

At the end of the day – record 3 things you are grateful for. Try and make one of them a person that you are grateful to – someone who helped you, someone who smiled, someone who made your day.

Our own gratitude often spills over into our behaviour. Our behaviour then helps others feel included, encouraged and valued. If we challenge ourselves to be grateful for many different people, and say thank you to more people than normal, then our own attitudes will grow to be more inclusive and caring over time.

How can I help?

Select a wide array of film/tv characters and famous people. Add into this some people from your community maybe – local councillors, MP, police etc.

Spend some time thinking about how we can help these people – try some film villains for fun – can we help Darth Vader feel loved and accepted? Will that make him nicer to be with? Or Kermit the Frog – can we help him feel more confident so that he can be part of the community? How can we help our headteacher, our MP, the children in the local nursery? Little things count, not just the flashy things matter.

PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT:

5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Sit comfortably, quieten the space and wait for these words:

Look around the space you are in and try and spot 5 colours. Think of some things that are also that colour and give thanks for those things that bring us colour and life and vibrancy.

Listen out for 4 sounds that you can hear. The ones you recognise and the ones you don't.

Ask God to help you listen to everyone around you for those you recognise and those you do not.

Reflect on 3 things that you can feel – temperature of where you are, the chair you are sat on, the clothes against your skin. Pray for those in need – of clothes, warmth, comfort.

Remember 2 places that you have been – one that you enjoyed and one that you didn't enjoy. Pray or think about those who are safe and for those who are not.

Bring to mind one promise made to you that means something special – that you are made in God's image, that God loves you, that you are loved and cherished by those who love you. Pray that you might help others know that they are loved, valued, accepted and celebrated for who God made them to be.

God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him will not be lost but have eternal life. Amen.

Use the **Examen prayer** to reflect on finding a diversity and inclusion:

It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS ...For the things that make you different and the things that unite you with others.
2. ASK FOR HELP ...For the times we are judged and need to respond in confidence and love.
3. REFLECT ...On how our words might divide people, destroy trust or downplay discomfort..
4. SAY SORRY ...For the times we judge others and make assumptions that hurt.
5. DECIDE ...How you might see God's image in everyone you meet.

May God grant us the grace to forgive others as He forgives us for the things we find hard. Amen.

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Discussion starters for groups:

What skills do we need to learn that unite people, bring people together and encourage peace between people? How hard has it been to re-learn how to get along with people since coming out of lockdown?

How does the language we use exclude or divide people? Can you see that in mainstream media – newspapers, news sites etc – or social media posts – Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc. What can we do challenge these? What can we do to include and connect with people?

Talk about things that you love – Who is with you on these? Who loves them too?

Can you find things that appear to be very different but when you look are actually have similarities? (Audible, Paperbacks or Kindle – they're still books. Worship in a cathedral or online – it's still worship using music, words, prayers and creating a space for us to feel close to God. Football, Uno or Mario Kart – it's still using your skills to have fun and challenge yourself and win!)

Talk about the things you used to like or dislike but have now changed your mind. What were these things? What changed your mind? Can you remember what it was like to feel that differently? Does this help us consider how we might change something else about how we feel? (An assumption, a feeling, a judgement, an anxiety.)

Why do some people always try and turn things into them and us? What do you think they are trying to do? Is it to make themselves feel stronger, better or safer?

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Weekly Resources for Schools

PHASE: SECONDARY

**THEME: Does our Behaviour
Matter? Bullying**



KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

Does our Behaviour Matter? Bullying.

Sadly, many pupils will have experienced bullying and be all too familiar with what it feels like to be bullied. Bullying comes in many different forms, including mental, physical and emotional. It could be as simple as ignoring someone in the class just because everybody else does, posting mean comments about someone online, or 'banter' and making jokes at someone else's expense. In this collective worship, we also highlight the responsibility we all share to take action if we witness the bullying of others. Bullies are able to continue because no one challenges what it is they are doing.

Christians often ask themselves 'What Would Jesus Do?' to decide how they should treat others, and this week we look at an incident from the life of Jesus that shows just that – how Jesus treated an individual whom everyone hated: Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector.

BIBLE STORY OF THE WEEK:

Luke 19:1-10

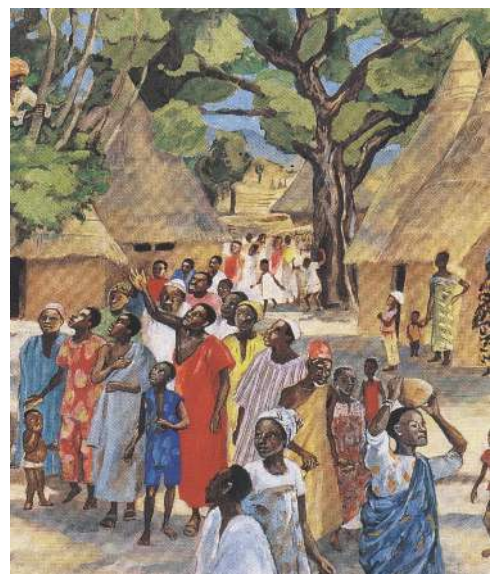
The way Zacchaeus had treated the people of Jericho had resulted in him becoming isolated and ostracised – and we can all imagine the reactions of the crowd to him wanting to see Jesus. It is likely that this story will be well-known to your students perhaps from primary school, but it is worth going back to the original story in the bible. It is very unusual for us to be told about the appearance of characters in the bible but here Zacchaeus' height is highlighted.

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. Now a man named Zacchaeus was there; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to get a look at Jesus but **being a short man**, he could not see over the crowd. So, he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, because Jesus was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to that place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, because I must stay at your house today." So, he came down quickly and welcomed Jesus joyfully.

And when the people saw it, they all complained, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." But Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, half of my possessions I now give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone of anything, I am paying back four times as much!" Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this household, **because he too is a son of Abraham!** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

There are a lot of questions you could explore within the script: you may wish to focus on just a few or use some on another day.



Gathering



Talk about the image:

What do you think is happening here?

Have you ever seen anyone who is on their own?

Sometimes people choose to be on their own: why might they make that choice?

Is there another reason that they are on their own?

How do we know the difference?

How does it feel to be left out? Why do people leave others out?

Why do people choose not to help if they see someone who is left out?

What do you think the 'crowd' is saying? Is there a group mentality? I wonder if anyone in the crowd is starting to think differently...

Engagement

Christians often ask themselves 'What Would Jesus Do?' to decide how they should treat others, and this week we look at a story from the life of Jesus that shows just that.

It is one of the most well-loved in the Gospels, about Zacchaeus the chief tax collector. This story is full of interesting detail that shows how Zacchaeus had treated people, and how people treated Zacchaeus.



In Jesus' day, tax collectors were not popular people – they worked for the Romans who had conquered much of the world, including the nation of Israel. But Zacchaeus was even more unpopular because he cheated people out of more money than they owed in taxes – and kept it for himself – so he was very rich. He clearly looked different because of his size; he had learnt not to care what others thought of him. He had become hardened to being treated in this way. Perhaps that is why he had taken the job he had. He had probably been thrown out of his faith and his community. When the crowd would not let him see he ran ahead and climb a tree which would not have been very dignified, and no doubt brought him ridicule. When you know this, it's perhaps a bit easier to understand the

reactions of the crowd. But Jesus' response was quite different....

When Jesus stepped into this situation, his reaction to Zacchaeus was very different from the reaction of the people of Jericho, the 'crowd' in the story. He saw his need, not his physical appearance. Jesus restored Zacchaeus: he restored his dignity, he restored his worth, he restored his faith. He did this by:

- associating with Zacchaeus inviting him down and going to stay with him.
- standing up for him saying 'Because he too is a son of Abraham'.
- risking unpopularity himself as the crowd that had been cheering him turned against him and started complaining.

Jesus changed everything – could you do the same?

Here are some words, attributed to 18th Century politician Edmund Burke [and (mis)quoted by President John F. Kennedy!]: **"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing"**. Talk together about what you think this means.

How can we take these words to heart and act on them this week?

Response

Let's be still and quiet together now....



Look again at the image, and think...

about how it feels to be the one who is alone...
about how it feels to be a part of the crowd...
about what Jesus did to change the situation for Zacchaeus...
about how we can reach out to others...
about how reaching out to others might change things for them...
about what you will do if you see something like this happening...

Sending

I'm going to use the words of a simple prayer. You might like to make it your own or prefer to continue to be quiet with your own thoughts.

Lord Jesus

Thank you for your example of being inclusive to all.

Help us to follow your example and include others in all we do.

Help us to stand up for those who feel excluded or mistreated, enabling them to feel they belong.

Give us the courage to speak up when we see bullying or exclusion, knowing you spoke up for others too.

Amen

Chose one of these songs as a reflection to finish:

Song (64) [Taylor Swift - Mean - YouTube](#)

A powerful song about overcoming the effects of bullying.

Song [Lean on me](#)

Bill Withers' song about how we all need somebody to lean on.

Song [\(64\) Sody - The Bully \(Official Video\) - YouTube](#)

A reflection on bullying

Song [You Say](#)

A song by Lauren Daigle about the words we say to ourselves – and what God says about us.

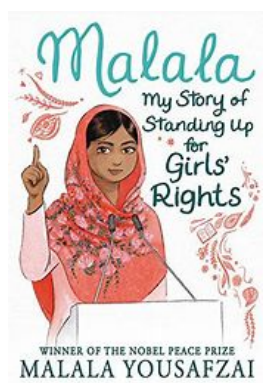
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Some stories from real life that explore positive ways to deal with bullying:

The story of Malala Yousafzai



Raised in a changing Pakistan by an enlightened father from a poor background and a beautiful, illiterate mother, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. Her story of bravery and determination in the face of extremism is inspiring. Her story teaches the value of speaking out against intolerance and hate: an inspiring message of hope in Malala's own words. Her influence and voice changing the world and she became the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner (2014). You can find out more about her life and work here: [Malala Fund | Working for a world where all girls can learn and lead](#)

[Find out about Malachi Justin and the opening of Malachi's Place](#) There is a short video linked here. When Malachi was five, he lost his first tooth and he gave his tooth fairy money to the Salvation Army to help homeless people in his area. His actions were part of building a new centre for the homeless in Ilford.



We are all connected:

Give everyone a blank paper cut into a jigsaw puzzle shape (you can find some [here](#)). On one side, write words that bullies might say to exclude others. Decorate it with 'sad' colours. On the other side write words that encourage and heal, and decorate with 'happy' colours. Join your pieces together as a class to remind each other that we are all connected and that together, we can stand up against bullying words.

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Use the EXAMEN prayer to reflect on times when you have found life difficult. It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for the times when someone has helped you to feel included.
2. ASK FOR HELP if you know someone who is being left out.
3. REFLECT on your day and think about times when you have felt included.
4. SAY SORRY for the times that you have been unkind and made someone feel that they don't belong.
5. DECIDE how you will act up when you see that someone is being bullied. Or if you are being bullied decide who you will talk to about it.

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES

Faith Bullying

There are many forms of bullying. One not often talked about is faith bullying. Why do you think this might be? This is treating people differently because of their faith or religion. It is wrong to hurt, tease, ignore, threaten, tell jokes, or call people names based on their faith or belief.

People might be bullied about their:

- Religion
- Religious practices like not eating meat or drinking alcohol.
- Clothes or symbols like headscarf's, Cross, Kara

Research suggests that 1 in 4 children of faith backgrounds experience being bullied because of their faith. Those bullied because of their religious beliefs often begin to question their faith, stopped talking about it, or even felt ashamed of it. One in five young people choose to mix mostly with friends of the same religion to avoid bullying.

Do your school's policies recognise this form of bullying?

Childline recommends that to counter faith bullying everyone needs to understand more about religion and faith. They suggest that young people should:

- let friends and teachers know when you take part in religious events, so they understand more about you and what you're doing.
- share photos or blogs about religious festivals so other people can see what these are like.
- tell friends about the foods and drinks you're not allowed in your religion, so they don't offer you these.
- ask friends why they wear religious items and how they feel about it.
- ask friends if you can join in with their religious events. This can help you understand their religion and culture a bit more.

Does your school have a culture where you would be comfortable to do this?

Anti-Bullying Alliance

It is always worth reminding students about what to do if they witness bullying or are being bullied. You can get involved and be 'United Against Bullying' by following this advice from the Anti-Bullying Alliance:

Include others: Make sure there is no one left by themselves in the playground or ask others to play with you if they are feeling left out.

Celebrate difference: Choosing to celebrate difference, rather than be divided by discrimination and hate. If someone is different to you get to know them better and you will find you have more in common than you might have thought.

Keep your hands and feet to yourself: Never physically hurt anyone else.

Respect everyone: Choose to be kind, not mean.

Don't laugh at others: This can really hurt someone's feelings.

We all need to play our part! If everyone works together and agrees to act this way, we can make a more powerful difference.

they are.

[One for the grown-ups](#) – How modern-day stigma around illness has created problems during the Covid pandemic similar to the treatment of Biblical lepers. You could explore this with older pupils, but it would need careful handling.

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Resources for Schools

PHASE: SECONDARY

Pentecost





KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus of the power of God available to those who believe. He wrote:

That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead...
(Ephesians 1:19)

The same power that rose Jesus from death, celebrated at Easter, is the power available to the believer by the Holy Spirit!

Pentecost today is the Christian celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit and is celebrated on the Sunday 50 days after Easter. It is one of most important and exciting events in world and church history – not only was the first Pentecost the birthday of the Church, but it was a time when there was a huge move from the Holy Spirit anointing individuals for a specific time and purpose, to His constant presence in the heart and life of every Christian believer.

At the first Pentecost the Holy Spirit came in power on the disciples and today we shall take a look at how this happened and the incredible after effects and growth of the Kingdom of God. Recognising that the Holy Spirit is still the same, still as powerful and dwells in us, is a cause for celebration!

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

The below bible passage explains the amazing events that happened that first Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-13

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine".

Gathering

Spend a few minutes together thinking about things that are powerful and things that are not very powerful and gather ideas together.

Encourage everyone to think really broadly, to share their idea and then everyone decided whether it is powerful or not very powerful. Then write them up on a board or screen under 'powerful' and 'not powerful'

Idea starters –

A Formula One car

A raindrop falling on your head

A freshly cut onion

Grief

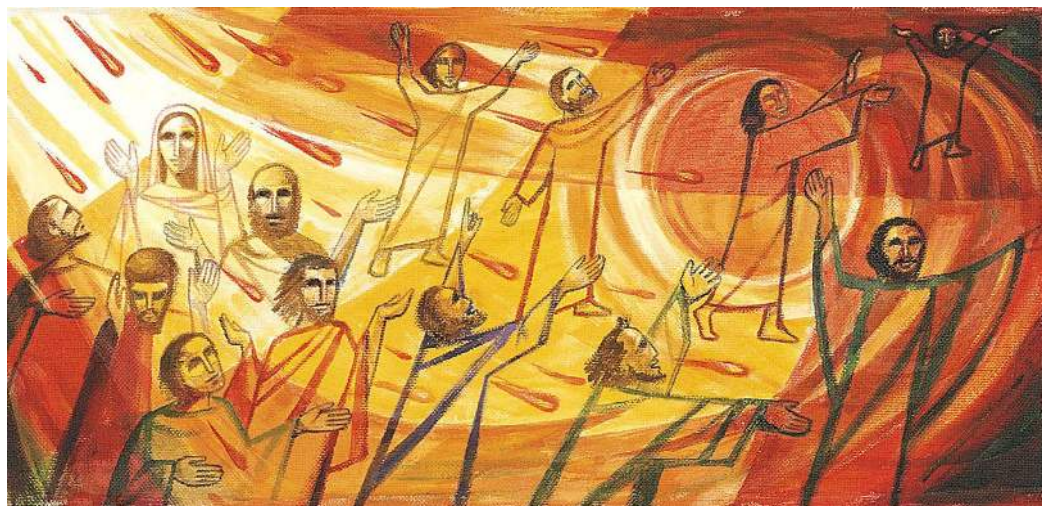
The smell of a rose

Britain's strongest man, lifting weights

Explain that today we are going to think about a person of the trinity (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit) who is able to both show gentleness, AND power both in the past, and today! This is the Holy Spirit.

Engagement

Read Acts 2:1-13 out once straight through, and then explain that we are going to gain eye witness reports, as if we were there at the time!



Split the group in half and explain that half are going to take the role disciples, and half the role of a crowd watching what was going on.

Ask them to think about what they can see, hear, physically feel and experience.

Read the passage out again slowly and purposefully and encourage everyone to open their eyes again. Discuss the scene from the disciples and then the crowd point of view. What had just happened? What might it have been like to be there? Encourage everyone to think creatively and to offer their suggestions.

Explain that from this day onwards, life was never the same for the disciples. At the first Pentecost most Christians believe that the Holy Spirit came in power on the disciples at the Pentecost feast and the resulting effects transformed the lives of those first Christians. They were empowered to start telling the good news about Jesus, healing and inspiring others to share their faith, not only in the Jewish world but to

all people to fulfil Jesus' command to go into the whole world to make disciples (close followers of Jesus). The Church was born!

This is not understood as just a historical event. Many Christians believe that this power is available today and helps them to discern what is the right thing to do, helps them to understand what God wants from them, helps them to flourish individually and as communities and transforms them into the people that God wants them to be changing families, communities and the world.

Response

Listen to the song 'King of Kings' by Hillsong, There are three versions here to choose from.

<https://youtu.be/Of5lcFWiEpg> or [\(64\) CHANDLER MOORE - King of Kings: Official Music Video - YouTube](#) or [\(64\) King Of Kings \(Live at Passion 2020\) - Hillsong Worship - YouTube](#)

Give the young people slips of paper containing the following short list of events described in the song and ask them to listen carefully and to tick them as each thing happens in the song to help them to understand where Pentecost comes in history

Trace the story!

Despair and darkness	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jesus born to a virgin to fulfil scripture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jesus being placed into a manger in a dirty stable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jesus' death on the cross	<input type="checkbox"/>
The resurrection of Jesus on the third day	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Church born when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples	<input type="checkbox"/>
Power and freedom for believers everywhere because of the love of God.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Finish by reading through this list again and by explaining that this worship song helps all of us to understand the events of history, and the difference that Pentecost made and continues to make today. These things help us to understand our place in the story too.

Sending

Think about the difference that a full tank of petrol has in a car, or a full stomach of food makes upon our day. We all need power to be able to flourish and to impact the individuals and communities around us. For the early believers, the power of the Holy Spirit enabled them to go and share the good news about Jesus.

Think as a group about a situation or a group of people in the local community, town or city where your school is. It could be an environmental cause, people living in debt and poverty, a local care home or any situation or group of people who simply need encouragement.

Decide as a group what you could do to impact the situation for the better. It might be writing letters, sending an encouraging email, recycling more at school, raising money for a cause that needs funds. We are sent to make a difference in the world around us!

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Bible Project Video 'Pentecost'

Watch the Bible Project Video 'Pentecost' until at least 3 minutes 25

<https://youtu.be/JQhkWmFJKnA>

Imagine what it must have been like to experience the Holy Spirit personally at or after Pentecost, and listen to the practical difference it made as the Church was born (meeting as faith families in homes, providing for the poor etc).

Many Christians today say they experience the transformative power of the Holy Spirit in these and lots of other different ways including environmental action, social justice projects, through the Bible, in sung and other worship.

Have you ever experienced a feeling of something speaking to you and moving you – to action, to change or to reflection?

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Scripture meditation

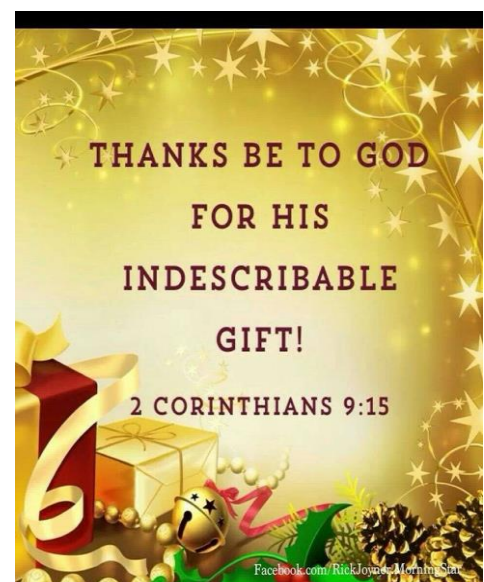
2 Corinthians 9:15 says:

'Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!'

Think about the best gift you have ever been given. What was it? Why was it so amazing? How did it bring you joy? The best gifts are not always the most expensive or flashy ones. Gifts given that were carefully thought about and matched to the person receiving the gift are usually the best ones.

What gift might this bible passage be talking about?
What gifts do you believe you have been blessed with?

Many Christians believe that the Holy Spirit who came to rest upon Christian believers at Pentecost is also a gift both then and now. It shows that God does not want them to have to battle on alone, but was left when Jesus ascended to take His place guiding, shaping and encouraging them. What a gift!



PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT:

Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Activities

Thy Kingdom Come is a National Church of England emphasis that happens every year between ascension and Pentecost. They have lots of practical ideas for prayers that Christians can use at home or at school.



If you are involved with a Church youth group or a Christin Union check out their practical youth prayer activity ideas here

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/sites/default/files/2021-03/Bright%20Prayer%20Ideas%20for%20Families%20at%20Home.pdf>

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Discussion starters for groups:

How can we use what we have (Ideas, creativity, passion, power, finance, time) to address injustices in our local community? Make a firm plan to impact one issue, in a small or large way.

What difference can we make as young people when it feels like all the power in the world comes from rulers, governments and adults? What change would we like to make and who do we need to help us to make it?

1 Timothy 4:12 states 'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity'. Do we feel like people or society looks down on young people? What does this verse suggest we can do to change this?

Do we know of examples of faith communities or organisations that make a real difference to all in society around them or all faiths and none? (you might like to bring out of discussion how schools and hospitals often had Christian roots in communities, how Langar (community kitchens of Gurdwaras) blesses communities, how foodbanks run with organisations such as the Trussell Trust and others)

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Resources for Schools

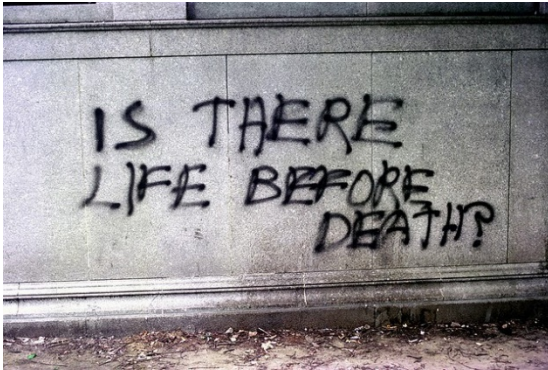
PHASE: SECONDARY

Poverty



KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

We need a theology of poverty that is based upon the Bible in order to minister to the poor without perpetuating the dehumanizing by-products of poverty.” Dr Michael A. Milton.



Poverty can take many forms. It is a complex problem with many causes. It can look different in different places. An economic definition of poverty focuses on a standard of living with deprivation, malnutrition, poor sanitation, lack of access to safe drinking water, education, health care and other social services, and no survival safety net.

The World Bank have gone further to describe poverty more holistically:

"Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom."

But is the situation so big and complex that we become numb or unable to relate? How can we understand poverty better? What can we do to make a difference? Where might we or those around us also be living with different forms or faces of poverty? It can show itself in people who are feeling alone or living with the consequences of injustice or oppression.

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

The Bible has many passages that talk about justice and care for people in poverty. The term poor in the Bible primarily refers to economic poverty but there are wider challenges. Poverty is associated with oppression, isolation and injustice. There are more than 300 on responsibility to care for the poor and work for justice and at least 250 verses on the proper use of wealth.

The Bible passage below is part of a longer section of Matthew's gospel where Jesus is teaching the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats.

For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you invited me in.

Matthew 25:35

It is a challenging passage and after these words these questions are asked-

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' Matthew 25:37-39

This reply is given in Jesus' summary

...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

Gathering

Begin by displaying the question ‘What is poverty and what can be done to end it?’

Give a few moments to allow everyone to reflect on this first.

Then show the film clip ‘What is poverty? (2015) from Tearfund. You could suggest looking out for words that stand out as you watch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5qig9Hlj7k>

Now revisit our initial reflections having seen the film clip. What words stood out?

How does the statement ‘Together we all become more human’ challenge us? Does this broaden our thoughts on what poverty is and what can be done to end it?

Engagement

Compassion International focus on poverty being more than economics, using an analogy about a bicycle as more than a means of transportation. Students could be given an image of a bicycle wheel with 6 spokes or sections and use the following description to explore a bigger picture of poverty.

Types of Poverty — Studying the Spokes

Imagine that the hub of a bicycle wheel represents a young girl living in a poor household in a rural area in the majority world or a young man with a disability living in a community of urban poor where the poverty rate exceeds 95 percent. Regardless of the scene, the hub of the bicycle wheel represents inequality and a life in which survival is a daily accomplishment.



Reaching out from the hub are the wheel's spokes. They represent our basic human needs and the different characteristics of poverty.

The first spoke represents a type of poverty that is easily overlooked — social poverty.

Social poverty includes people groups that are undervalued and have few rights. Oftentimes, social poverty is easiest to spot when we look for people who have been silenced—they have no say, and their rights are minimized. They are often oppressed and

thought of as insignificant.

The second spoke and poverty type is educational poverty.

Hundreds of millions of children lack education and that creates lack of options. Education equals knowledge, skills, and training, so when education is not available, families get trapped in the cycle of poverty for generations. Steady employment and income can be difficult to find, and a person's basic needs can't be met. Lack of education also makes children more vulnerable to exploitation or abuse.

The third spoke symbolizes health poverty.

Health poverty may sound strange, but when a person is unhealthy it is difficult to hold down a job and develop positive relationships. Physical and emotional health is the basis for our ability to work, play and be in relationship with others.

Spiritual poverty is the next spoke in our bicycle wheel.

Spiritual poverty can be summed up by the word “hopelessness.” Oftentimes, people in poverty struggle with feelings of worthlessness and despair. Children are especially vulnerable to these emotions and the message of despair poverty sends.

The next spoke in the wheel of poverty is environmental poverty.

Physical surroundings play a large role in a person’s wellbeing. Environmental factors include climate, housing options, land availability, water supply, insects that carry disease, water-borne illnesses, weather, drought, and much more.

Finally, the last type of poverty is the more traditionally understood type of poverty — economic poverty.

Half the world lives with a household income of less than £1.80 a day. This level of poverty is the equal of captivity. People need an income level which allows them to purchase what they cannot make or grow.

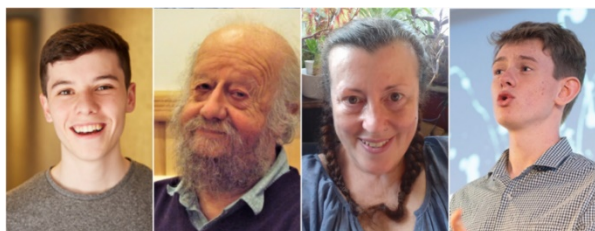
Some questions to consider or for further discussion:

- Which of the 6 spokes or types of poverty is the easiest or hardest to see? Why? What can we do to help us be more aware of the types of poverty that are harder to see?
- Which do we think are most common in the UK? Are there any parts of the world where certain types might be more common and why?
- Are there any ways churches, community groups or schools might be able to help with certain types?

Response

In Summer 2020 a book was compiled called ‘Same Boat’, which is a powerful collection of poems about poverty and the pandemic launched during the first challenge poverty week in England and Wales. This can be downloaded, and some poems selected. It has new perspectives around poverty:

<https://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sameboatpoems>



These are some of the ordinary people who contributed.

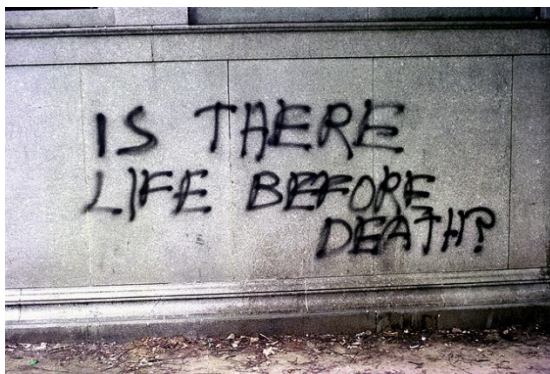
In their introduction, the editing panel write:

“While the term ‘poverty’ is often understood as a financial problem, these poems suggest that the word is more of a blanket term for numerous different ‘poverties.’ These include social poverty, poverty of choice, psychological poverty, poverty of autonomy, digital poverty, poverty of access and poverty of opportunity, among others. The book also takes a closer look at some of the people behind the statistics. Rejecting the myth that those in poverty are helpless, several poets choose to explore the power that their experiences have given them.”

See page 21 ‘Nobody saw it coming’, or p 13 ‘I have a voice’, or page 17 ‘Yellow sticker’

Can you write a poem that helps us understand more about poverty?

Sending



'We believe in Life before death' was once a popular strapline used by the charity Christian Aid.

Today are we willing to stand with the most vulnerable and excluded people of the world – both in times of crisis and for the longer term?

What can we do to support people to stand up for their rights and to build stable, secure lives they can enjoy living?

Read again Matthew 25 verses 37-40

Christian Aid are providing daily bible readings with a reflection and prayer for every day that could be used.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/daily-bible-readings>

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Listen to the song 'You are love' recorded by Phillipa Hanna, to highlight the 20th anniversary of the work of Christians Against Poverty (CAP). They work to support people in the UK trapped by debt and poverty.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N76oaIVBikU>

The work is explained on their website <https://capuk.org/> and it might be helpful to show where they are working in your local area.

How did the film accompanying the song show ways to challenge poverty? We can feel overwhelmed and helpless but ordinary, everyday actions make a difference. Again, this shows 'Together we all become more human'.

Christian Aid provide a range of games and activities that explore issues raised by poverty.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/secondary-teaching-resources>

This includes Safe Place Ludo and Disaster Zone.

The song 'Who you say I am' was recorded by Hillsong United working with by Compassion International, Food for the Hungry and World Vision. They joined together to unite the Christian community through a two-hour concert event to benefit children and families worldwide who are most vulnerable to the aftershocks of COVID-19 as well as other natural disasters.

This is one of a number of examples of people coming together virtually to raise and share important issues. What aspects of poverty do people need to be made more aware of? How could the message be shared?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2t8hSAdGOTO>

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

In association with Prayer spaces in Schools, Christian Aid have downloadable materials for creating a prayer space to explore topics like this: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/schools/prayer-spaces-schools>

Gratitude Diary (also suggested in previous resource packs):

At the beginning of the day think of something to do that will show your gratitude: post a card, say something to someone, send a message. Try and vary the people you are sending them to.

At the end of the day – record 3 things you are grateful for. Try and make one of them a person that you are grateful to – someone who helped you, someone who smiled, someone who made your day.

Our own gratitude often spills over into our behaviour. Our behaviour then helps others feel included, encouraged and valued. If we challenge ourselves to be grateful for many different people across the world who we depend on for all we have and enjoy, and say thank you to more people than normal, then our own attitudes will grow to appreciate how together we are more human.

How can I help?

This Faith at Home session may have made young people angry and understandably to want to act. Christian Aid have quite a few resources to help those that want to campaign to change things... to be courageous advocates.

These resources will help think through how you and your school or your church can create effective, impactful campaigns to bring about justice with our global neighbours.

Use them to:

- learn more about running a campaign action
- get more people involved
- learn how to work with your local politician
- support one of [Christian Aid's campaigns](#), or even start your own

[Christian Aid's campaigns](#)

PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT:

5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

Sit comfortably, quieten the space and wait for these words:

Look around the space you are in and try and spot 5 things you appreciate that help you live life. Think of those globally who might have worked to enable you to enjoy those things.

Listen out for 4 sounds that you can hear. The ones you recognise and the ones you don't.

Ask God to help you be aware of those in need, locally, nationally and globally, especially some of whose voices we never hear.

Reflect on 3 things that you can feel – the temperature of where you are, the chair you are sat on, the clothes against your skin. Pray for those in need – of clothes, warmth, comfort.

Remember 2 places that you have been – one that you enjoyed and one that you didn't enjoy. Pray or think about people in those places who may be experiencing forms of poverty.

Bring to mind one situation you know where people are experiencing poverty in some way – pray for their needs to be met and that they will know they are made in God's image, that God loves them.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him will not be lost but have eternal life'. Amen.

Use the **Examen prayer** to reflect on the challenges poverty brings us in the world today:

It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS ...That the world is full of amazing resources so we can all enjoy life.
2. ASK FOR HELP ...For the times we are greedy and resources are not shared fairly.
3. REFLECT ...On how our actions might contribute to the poverty of others or ourselves.
4. SAY SORRY ...For the times we missed an opportunity that could have helped lessen poverty.
5. DECIDE ...How you might take action to stand with others or help reduce the impact of poverty in the world.

May God grant us fullness of life that will overflow and be a blessing to others. Amen.

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Resources and materials for groups:

BELONG is a Christian Aid resource that provides 11 sessions to work with young people exploring faith, social justice and putting faith into action:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-resources/belong-older-youth-church>

Pick up your privilege is a Bible study provided by Tear Fund, challenging injustice based on the book of Esther:

<https://www.tearfund.org/-/media/tearfund/files/about-us/our-mission/anti-racism-statement/racial-injustice-bible-study.pdf>

Tear Fund also have a resource pack on '*Understanding poverty*'

<https://learn.tearfund.org/en/resources/tools-and-guides/understanding-poverty>

There is also an opportunity to engage further with spiritual poverty. This could include considering ways to inspire hope for the hopeless or supporting spiritual development. Some Bible passages that could be explored to discuss this more could include:

Peter stepping out of the boat and struggling with his faith - Matthew 14:26-30

The Beatitudes, including 'Blessed are the poor in spirit' - Matthew 5:3-12

Thomas in the upper room - John 20

Use these passages to explore:

- How do we become more faithful or stronger in our belief?
- If the opposite of spiritual poverty is spiritual strength then how do we support each other to be stronger and more resilient?

INVITATIONAL

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INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?



Resources for Schools

PHASE: SECONDARY

Does our behaviour really matter? – Climate Justice





KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

Climate Justice: We don't just care because one day it might affect us, we care because it is already affecting thousands around the world.

BIBLE PASSAGE OF THE WEEK:

¹³“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5 verses 13-16



There are many great resources to help pupils engage with the issues of climate change and climate justice. In this resource we have used material produced by two Christian charities working in this field Christian Aid and Tearfund. It is well worth exploring their websites in more detail [UK charity fighting global poverty](#) - [Christian Aid](#) [Tearfund](#)

Many other charities are available.

Gathering

Watch again the Tearfund film 'moved by faith' ([104](#)) [MOVED BY FAITH | WE ARE TEARFUND - YouTube](#)

Reflect on this line: 'This is our responsibility; This is our worship'.

- What does it say to the church?
- What does it say to you?



Engagement

Think about the qualities of Salt



There are literally 1000s of ways salt can be used, here are some unexpected ones:

- Make coffee less bitter!
- Deodorize your trainers!
- Make your nails stronger!
- Create non drip candles!
- Whiten your teeth!

Salt removes stains, sanitises, and disinfects, puts out fires, relieves burns and stings, fertilises, and helps things grow, is a natural pesticide. It can do so much to help people in so many small ways.

Why do you think Jesus called on his followers to be 'The salt of the earth?' It was a call to do something!

Watch the [July meditation - Christian Aid](#) and then read the first reflection on Salt adapted from the Christian Aid website

You are the salt of the earth, he said.

You are the salt of this earth that has been bruised by our overuse of resources and our harmful lifestyle, leaving parts of it uninhabitable from drought, flooding and disaster.

You are the salt of this earth whose mothers and daughters and sisters have been oppressed and mistreated.

You are the salt of this earth that can no longer provide a safe home for over 65 million people who are displaced around the world.

You are the salt of this earth that was once created to be home for all, but now is owned and controlled by a small percentage of the wealthy and privileged.

You are the salt of the earth, he said. Healing salt, cleansing salt. You are the salt that helps others live with the full flavour of life. You are the salt that keeps the fire of life alight. You are the salt that will make the world taste better for everyone who lives in it.

Which part of this reflection particularly stands out to you? Why? What do you think you might be able to do about it?

For many Christians being salt in this world is summed up in this verse:

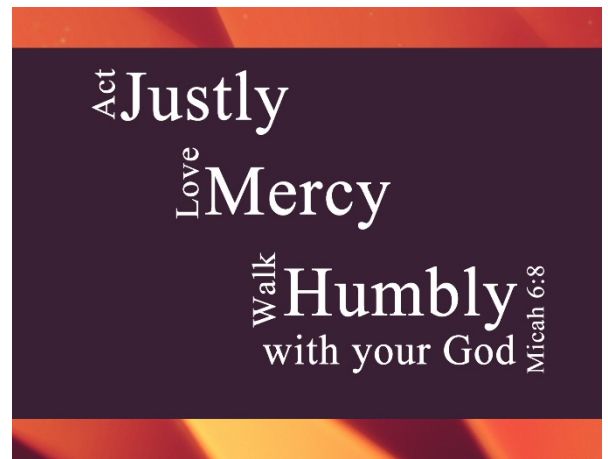
*God has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8*

Christian Aid is a charity that supports all people to put this into practice.

To act justly: might mean to campaign against the injustice of Climate change. [MP Briefing: climate and debt 2021 - Christian Aid](#)

To love mercy: might mean to take actions to provide practical help to those suffering because of lifestyle decisions we have taken that have historically contributed to the to the problem.

To walk humbly: might mean to confess their part in contributing to the problem and to pray for change. [Prayer Chain creative ideas - Christian Aid](#)



Response



In June 2021, the UK is hosting a meeting in Cornwall of the G7, an organisation of the world's richest countries. This year people cannot be there to demonstrate and make their feelings known to world leaders but that doesn't mean young people aren't making their voices heard.

Christian Aid are encouraging people to 'Send a postcard to Boris' [G7 climate finance postcard action - Christian Aid](#)

Watch this song written by Sir Tim Rice and performed by Truro Cathedral Choir [\(104\) 'Gee Seven' by Sir Tim Rice and Peter Hobbs for 'Sing2G7' with Truro Cathedral Choristers - YouTube](#) This link is to a News item that explains the project [\(104\) ITV NEWS on Sing2G7 - YouTube](#)

Could you school perform a version of the Gee Seven song and post it online to raise awareness in the weeks leading up and after the G7 conference? [Sing2G7! Bringing Children's Voices Everywhere To The Heart of G7!](#) There are many activities to explore climate change on their website.

Sending

Watch the meditation from Christian Aid [July meditation - Christian Aid](#)

Then read the second part of the reflection used earlier.

Don't lose your saltiness, he warns. For if you do you will be trampled on under foot.

You are the salt of the earth,
stay salty.
You are the light of the world,
let it shine.
Matthew 5:13-16

Don't lose your flavour, he warns. For if you do, you'll become bland and complacent with the status quo that keeps the rich in power and the poor in poverty.

Don't lose your sharpness, he warns. For if you do, your sight will become soft and your eyes will become blind to the oppression that happen around you.

Don't lose your abrasiveness, he warns. For if you do, you'll only be like a small plaster on a large wound, unable to heal fully the problems that are bringing suffering on the world.

Consider how you might work together to keep one another 'salty' in staying alert to the needs of the planet and the communities most affected by climate change. Can you make a collective pledge for how you will stay committed to this?

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

Jesus said in Matthew 6 verse 21 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

Watch this meditation from Christian Aid and consider what how where you place your treasure and spend your money might be part of the problem of climate change and the issue of climate justice.

[October meditation - Christian Aid](#)

Climate change disproportionately effects those living in the global south. Individually or in groups read these Personal perspectives on social and environmental justice from Black church leaders. [Our Prophetic Journey Towards Climate Justice.pdf \(christianaid.org.uk\)](#) Summarise what they are saying and reflect back to the rest of your group. Discuss the issues raised.

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

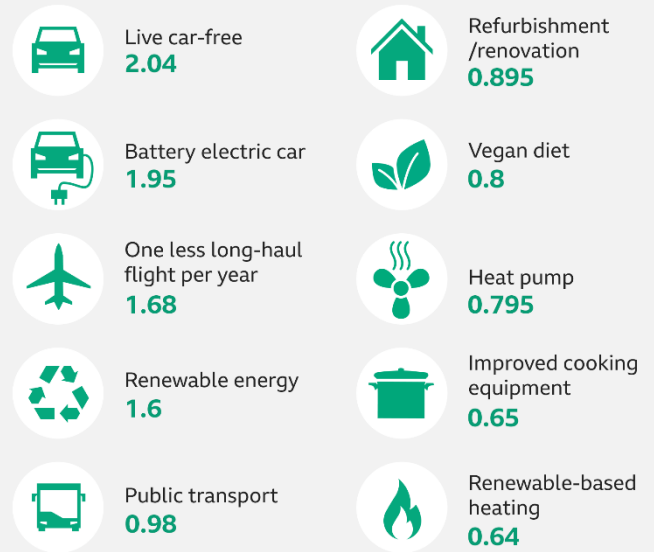
This list of actions you could take to reduce your carbon footprint was produced for an article on the BBC website in 2020. Look at this list.

Rank from 1 -10 (with one being the easiest) in terms of what you could do.

Share your list with others and consider how you might support one another with these actions.

Top options for reducing your carbon footprint

Average reduction per person per year in tonnes of CO2 equivalent



Source: Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions

BBC

PRAYERS that can help us REFLECT:

Use the EXAMEN prayer to reflect on our climate justice. It has 5 steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for your favourite parts of creation. These might be animals, birds, people, or places.
2. ASK FOR HELP to make personal choices that are good for the climate.
3. REFLECT on your day and think about times when you have enjoyed using, or eating, a natural resource, where did it come from? Who was involved in getting it to you?
4. SAY SORRY for the lifestyle choices you and your peers have made that may have contributed to climate change.
5. DECIDE on one change that you will make tomorrow that is better for the climate.

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES:

Although everyone can do small things to help with the climate crisis it will also need communities to come together and take action. This is happening and this is the hope for the future. These two videos reflect communities coming together.

Watch this song reflecting on the possibility of the power of political change.

[\(104\) OneRepublic - Truth To Power \(Lyric Video\) - YouTube](#)



Christians believe that God has 'the whole world in his hands'. Watch this updated version of the song using voices from around the world and reflect on the possibility hope and healing of this world if we work together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPIfoAfjY5k>

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – OUR APPROACH

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