



R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

LESSON TITLE Being thankful and Harvest traditions	LEARNING STAGE KS1	WST TEACHER/DATE Mrs Tricia Bastable/ Mrs Johanna Jordan
AIM: To understand that Christians thank God for their food. They celebrate with a special Harvest festival. LEARNING OBJECTIVE: To explore how Christians celebrate the Harvest festival and thank God for their food (and all the things they have).	MAIN AREAS OF LEARNING (Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22) Beliefs and practices Justice and fairness Other AOL covered: Human responsibility and values Identity and belonging Prayer, worship and reflection	LESSON RESOURCES WST can provide: Worksheets to photocopy Paper plates and tissue paper School to provide: Photocopies of worksheet Colouring pencils Glue-sticks

Introduction

Welcome by Johanna.

The video switches to outside a Greengrocer's showing a selection of fruit and vegetables. Tricia talks about her favourite fruit.

Johanna then asks, 'What is your fruit or vegetable?' At which point you may like to pause the video for the children to discuss the question in talking partners.

Main content

Johanna explains that our food comes from the natural world, including sugar and chocolate. Some children may be surprised by this. You may want to pause the video to discuss the children's reactions. (1:38)

Most religious people believe that God made the world. Christians celebrate Harvest Festival in September/ October to say Thank you to God for their food. Johanna asks, 'I wonder what the word Harvest means?' (2:08) You may want to pause the video to discuss the children's answers. The video shows examples of food being harvested around the world. You could pause the video here to ask how many of the foods they recognised. (3:52)

In the past people depended on a good harvest to have enough food to eat throughout the year. In some countries people still grow their own food and experience this same dependency. Harvest celebrations are a way for people to say thank you to God after the crops are harvested from the field. Christians are thankful to God, who gives the rain and the sun for crops to grow. To express their thankfulness to God many Christians around the world have a special time of thanksgiving during the autumn months (September/October). This is called the Harvest Festival. People decorate their churches with flowers, fruit and vegetables and they have a special Harvest service. Christians also do something special during Harvest to help other people.

Harvest Festivals are celebrated in Churches. Christians take food to their Churches to make displays to remind them of all they believe God has given them. The video shows pictures of Harvest Festivals in some local Churches. Johanna is then seen at her local church taking some donations for her church's Harvest Festival which will be passed onto New Hope in Watford.

Johanna talks about Harvest assemblies in schools and asks the children to reflect upon what your school does/has done. She asks, 'What could you bring as a Harvest donation?' (6:58) If your school has already done this, you could skip forward to 7:18.

The children are asked to consider why Christians would give food away. Christians try to follow Jesus' example. Christians learn about Jesus from their Holy book, the Bible.

Introduction to the Bible story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand.

You might like to ask what else happens apart from the miracle with the sharing of the small amount of food to the large number of people. (The healing of the child's mother.) The Max7.org video has no narration, only a soundtrack. Some children may notice how the music changes at certain points in the story; what does this signify?

Explanation of a miracle.

Johanna asks, 'I wonder what we can learn from this story?' She then asks the children to consider this question: 'How can you be generous to other people?'

Christians think Harvest is a time to be thankful to God for their food and for all that they have. Harvest is also a time to be generous and share what we have.

We suggest you show a clip from the BBC Watch series about Harvest festivals. It was filmed in Bushey Baptist Church and shows the Harvest donations being taken to and used by a local homeless charity, New Hope in Watford.

www.tes.com/teaching-resource/harvest-festival-6176420

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0114rn0>

Craft Activity

Think about what we have to be thankful for. On the worksheet, make 4 drawings of things we can be thankful for in the 4 boxes of the circle (nature, food, animals and people). Label the pictures. Colour in the pictures. Cut out the circle and stick it on a paper plate. Decorate the plate with tissue paper in autumn colours.

Plenary

Christians are thankful to God for all they have and want to express their thankfulness by sharing what they have with others.

Johanna says goodbye to the children and New Hope Watford's version of the Harvest Samba plays.

If you want to listen to it again use this link: <https://vimeo.com/73043833>

Deeper Questions - Possible follow up/class discussion suggestions

Explore a charity that supports people in need (e.g. foodbank, homeless charity).

Have a (food) collection in the school to support a local charity.

Class teacher's notes

For further lesson plans, resources and support material visit www.watfordschoolstrust.org or email info@watfordschoolstrust.org

