



R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

LESSON TITLE 'Why Easter?' The significance of salvation - Easter workshop	LEARNING STAGE UKS2	WST TEACHER/DATE Mrs Bastable Mrs Jordan
AIM: To know what Christians believe Jesus did to save human beings. LEARNING OBJECTIVE: To explore the significance for Christians of Jesus' death on the cross.	MAIN AREA/S OF LEARNING (Herts R.E. Syllabus 2017-22) Sources of wisdom Beliefs and practices Other AOL covered: Justice and fairness Identity and belonging Symbols and actions Ultimate questions	LESSON RESOURCES WST provides: Lesson video: Design a T-shirt worksheet to photocopy The T-shirt clip used in the video can be found on: http://request.org.uk/jesus/jesus-importance-to-day/2013/10/11/why-did-jesus-die/ School to provide: Felt pens/colouring pencils

Introduction

Tricia introduces the lesson by explaining that the focus of this Easter lesson is to learn 'why Jesus' death and resurrection is so important to Christians and so central to the Christian faith'.

Tricia starts with an introductory quiz. Children are shown pictures of people they might recognise and are asked whether they remember who they are? And what (if anything) they think they will be remembered for in the future? Pictures shown are: Captain Sir Thomas Moore, Serena Williams, Chris Whitty, Marcus Rashford and Greta Thunberg.

Jesus lived over two thousand years ago and yet today he is still remembered, talked about and followed all over the world by more than 2 billion people (see www.reference.com). Tricia asks what the children remember about Jesus. *At this point, the video can be paused to allow for discussion.*

Tricia briefly explains what we know about Jesus from the Bible. We know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a humble stable, with shepherds and wise men visiting him. As a grown-up, Jesus started teaching people about God. He told many stories and he did many miracles. Jesus' message to the people was that God loves them very much and they should love God and love each other. Jesus had many followers, but the religious leaders were jealous and decided to kill Jesus. At Easter, Christians remember and celebrate Jesus dying on the cross and coming back to life.

Main Part

Johanna asks how much the children remember of the Easter story? Johanna's daughter Nathalie opens a number of plastic Easter eggs with small items inside. Can the children tell what the item tells about the Easter story? *After each item there is a brief pause of 10 seconds. The video can be paused to allow more time for discussion between the children.*

The items inside the eggs are:

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| - Palm leaf: | Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday |
| - 30p in silver coins: | Judas agrees to betray Jesus |
| - a small piece of bread/cracker: | Jesus shares the Last Supper |
| - a toy Roman soldier: | Jesus is arrested and sentenced to death |
| - nails: | Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to a cross |
| - a stone: | Jesus is laid to rest in a sealed tomb |
| - empty egg: | Resurrection: Jesus' friends discover the empty tomb |

A brief version of the Easter story is read by local children with supporting images from 'The Miracle Maker' film.

Johanna continues with the question 'why is this story so important for Christians?' The Bible teaches that Jesus' death on the cross was part of God's plan. That God made our beautiful world and everything in it and that God wanted people to be friends with him. But people made poor choices that made it impossible for people to be friends with God. God wanted to create a way for people to be friends with him again. The Bible teaches that Jesus came into the world to help people be friends with God again. He told people that God loves everyone, he taught them how to live for God and how to treat each other. But his death on the cross was his ultimate sacrifice so that people can be forgiven for the wrong things they think, the wrong things they say and the wrong things they do.

Johanna uses a cardboard box to explain how sin gets in the way between people and God and how Jesus took people's sin on the cross to bring forgiveness.

As a second illustration of why Jesus died on the cross, we have included a video clip from RE:quest.

<http://request.org.uk/jesus/jesus-importance-today/2013/10/11/why-did-jesus-die/>

This video shows how sin stains the actor's T-shirt. The actor's T-shirt is then swapped for a clean white one, while the stained T-shirt is hung on the cross. This reflects how Jesus took the sin of the whole world on himself to bring forgiveness.

Johanna finishes by explaining that Jesus' death was not the end. Jesus came back to life again. Christians believe that because Jesus came back to life, they too will have life with God in heaven after they die. Just like spring flowers, they flower in spring - then die, but we know that next spring they will be back again. Easter is a celebration of new life.

Johanna mentions that if children have any further questions about the meaning of Easter for Christians, these can be emailed to us and we'll do our best to answer any questions: info@watfordschoolstrust.org.

Activity

Tricia explains a possible activity to reflect on this Easter lesson. Children can use the T-shirt template from our website www.watfordschoolstrust.org/lesson-plans/ to design a T-shirt with the Christian message of Easter. Examples from previous years are shown.

Class teacher's notes

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

