

## ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit of work children will be given some opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as important Lenten activities. They will examine the teaching of Jesus about these things and think about why they might be important activities for Christians today. In this unit children will also explore the Church's teaching on the forgiveness and God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds on work completed in Year 5 about Lent as a season of change and growth. It also builds on some previous work completed on the sacrament of Reconciliation throughout Key Stage 2.

## PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- some awareness of the customs of Lent.

## SKILLS

Speaking and listening, group work, research skills, empathetic writing, drama and role-play.

## ASSESSMENT

**At the end of this unit:**

**Most children will** know about the Church's customs for the Season of Lent. They will understand some reasons why Jesus spoke of prayer, fasting and almsgiving being important and be able to think about applying these in their own lives. The children will be able to discuss issues concerning poverty in the world today and think about some remedies for this problem. The children will know that the Scriptures speak of God's mercy and forgiveness and they will understand how the Church celebrates this in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Less able children will** know that Lent is an important season in the Church year. They will know about Jesus' teachings on prayer, fasting and almsgiving and will be able to think about applying these teachings in their own lives. They will know that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's forgiveness.

**More able children will** have a greater understanding about Jesus' teaching on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. They will be able to recall lots of reasons why Christians today follow this teaching of Jesus. Children will be able to ask questions about why poverty exists today and discuss ways in which it can be overcome. They will know about the importance attached to asking for God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and understand how the Examination of Conscience can help people prepare to celebrate this Sacrament.

## VOCABULARY

Prayer, fasting, almsgiving, Lent, Abraham, Samaritan, Pharisee, Sadducees, CAFOD, Examination of Conscience, absolution, penance, mercy, forgiveness.

**A.T.1      A.T.2**

**4a          4a**

**4b          4b**

**4c          4c**

**4d**

**3a          3a**

**3b          3b**

**3c          3c**

**3d**

**4a          4a**

**4b          4b**

**5a          5a**

**5c          5b**

**5d**

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**C4** The Church's celebration of significant events in the life of Christ: The Season of Lent.

**L5** Ways that love of neighbour can be shown locally and globally.

**C8** Their freedom to choose and responsibility to choose the good.

**L1** The Gospel message that Jesus brings of fullness of life for all people: The Beatitudes.

- Introduce the season of Lent by reminding pupils that Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season. Can the children remember anything about what happens during the celebration of Mass on this day?
- Read the opening prayer of the Mass for Ash Wednesday.
- What does self-denial mean?
- Provide some examples from the children's experience of what self-denial might be like.
- Children to read the gospel for Ash Wednesday about prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Why would the hypocrites want everybody to know that they were doing these things? How would it make them feel?
- Some of the people that Jesus might have been referring to were some of the most religious Jews such as the Pharisees and the Sadducees.
- Use Bible reference books to find out what some of these people were like. Can you see any reason why Jesus might have been opposed to their actions?
- Why do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to pray, fast and give alms?
- In groups, children to come up with at least five reasons why these religious practices are good.
- Make a table listing the teachings of Jesus in one column, why they are important in another and in a third column add some thoughts and ideas about what the children can do to live out this teaching of Jesus during the Season of Lent.
- Children to use the CAFOD web-site and Lent pack to think about how Year Six might encourage the rest of the school community to fast and to give something for the most needy of people.
- Reflect with the children on some reasons why there is poverty in the world today. Why do some people have nothing to eat and other have lots?
- Hold a class debate about what could be done in the world to change this situation.
- Children to write up their ideas and use them as reflections in a Lenten liturgy.
- Jesus taught his disciples the importance of giving alms and helping those who are in need. Read the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus.
- Role-play this event and try and explore the feelings and the life-styles of the two main characters.
- Interview Lazarus and consider the questions that you would want to ask him about the quality of his life.
- Interview the rich man in the same way. Compare and contrast answers to the questions.
- Why do you think Jesus taught this parable? What was he saying about the way he wanted his followers to live?
- Reflect with the children on questions about being poor or rich. Is it wrong to be rich? Is it wrong to be poor? What do they think? How do their answers relate to the teaching of Christ?
- Read the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in St. Matthew's Gospel.
- What does this tell us about where Christ can be found? What might this parable of Jesus encourage his followers to do?
- How easy is this teaching of Jesus? What do you think might make it difficult?
- Reflect with children on their abilities to make choices. We can either choose to be selfish or we can choose to be generous to other people who have greater needs than ourselves.
- Children to work in groups and think about some real life scenarios where they have the choice of being selfish or being generous. Children should identify the consequences of their choice.
- Revisit the teachings of Jesus in the Beatitudes. Compare and contrast the version in St. Matthew's Gospel with the version in St. Luke's Gospel. Can you spot any major differences?
- The Beatitudes teach us that Jesus has a concern for many different types of people, many of whom are in a state of need.
- From all that the children have learnt, write a modern day version of the Beatitudes of Jesus as a guide for Christian living.
- Explore with the children about Lent being a season of forgiveness and trying to change to be more like Christ.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**C4** Of customs and traditions of major liturgical feasts and seasons.

- Know that Lent is a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving
- Understand some reasons why these were important features of the teaching of Jesus.
- Be able to consider ways in which they can live out these teachings.

**L5** Of the joys and challenges that relationships bring

- Know some information about the work of CAFOD
- Understand some reasons why there is poverty in the world.
- Be able to think about some possible solutions to this problem.
  
- Know the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus.
- Be able to compare and contrast the different life-styles of the characters.
- Understand and name some reasons why Jesus taught this parable.
  
- Know the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats
- Understand that it tells us about Christ's care for those in need.
- Be able to consider the actions of Christians in light of this teaching.

**C8** That review of life is important for Christian living.

**L1** That every human person is made in the image and likeness of God and is called to reflect God's love.

- Know the Beatitudes of Jesus.
- Understand some of the messages they contain about living as a follower of Christ today.
- Be able to write their own version of the Beatitudes.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

This might be an excellent opportunity to introduce some extra Lenten activities such as a hunger lunch.

There is a real opportunity here to do some further work on the global family and discover some of the poorest areas of the world today.

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## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R5** Hear about, read and explore Gospel accounts of how the lives of men and women were changed by their encounters with Jesus.

- Recall previous work from Year Five about the imposition of the ashes on Ash Wednesday. "Repent and believe the Gospel." Revise the meaning of the word repent.
- Remind the children that Jesus tried to help many people to change and respond to his forgiveness.
- Read the story of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman.
- What state was Jesus in when the woman came?
- What did he ask of her?
- Why was she so opposed to his request?
- Find out about Samaritans. Why did Jews have little to do with them?
- Look at the names that the woman gives to Jesus in the story. Do you know the meaning of some of these names? Use a Bible glossary to find out.
- What does Jesus offer to the woman? Why do you think this was a special gift?
- Jesus changed the woman's view of him. Who did she think he was in the end?
- How do you think this meeting with Jesus might have changed the life of the Samaritan Woman?
- Write a diary entry as the Samaritan Woman.
- Write the next episode in the Story of the Samaritan Woman. Think about some of the things she would have told her friends and neighbours the next day. Imagine her thoughts and feelings the next time she went to the well to draw water.

**R3** Hear about and explore the Bible.

- Explain to the children that Christians believe that God's forgiveness provides us with a source of help and strength to change and become more like Christ.
- Read the story of Abraham asking God to be merciful.
- Dramatise the story with everybody in the class taking part.
- Children to imagine that they are Abraham asking God what he might do if there were just so many just men. What might your fears be in asking God these questions? What might you feel each time God replies?
- What does this story teach us about the mercy and forgiveness of God?
- Brainstorm lots of words that could be used to describe God's mercy and forgiveness.
- Create a newspaper report of this event. Try and capture Abraham's thoughts and feelings and the generosity of God.
- Explain to the children that in the Jewish Psalms we find lots of references in the form of prayer where people are asking God for mercy and forgiveness.
- Read *Psalm 50* together.
- Make lists of the words that ask God for something.
- Make lists of the words that describe the writer.

**L9** The practice of Examination of Conscience and its significance for Christian living.

- Reflect with the children on the importance of asking God to forgive us when we have sinned.
- Revise with the children the Examination of Conscience as an important form of Christian prayer.
- Brainstorm with the children some of the things they might want to include in an examination of conscience.
- Write a version which could be used by the class during the Season of Lent as a personal reflection each day.
- Using a psalm format, create a prayer asking for forgiveness. You might want to use words and images found in *Psalm 50*.

**L10** The Rite of Reconciliation and its significance.

- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Catholic Christians celebrate the forgiveness of God in a special way. Revise with the children the words of absolution and the role of the priest in celebrating this Sacrament. What is so important about these words and the actions of the priest?
- You might invite your local priest to come and talk to the children about this Sacrament.
- Revise the word "penance" with the children and research the meaning of the word. Why do you think we are asked to do something special after receiving God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- Imagine you were meeting somebody who had never heard about this Sacrament. What would you tell them? How would you explain its importance?

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R5** That people's lives were changed by responding to Jesus.

- Know the Story of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman
- Understand that her encounter with Jesus brought some change to her life.
- Be able to empathise with her thoughts and feelings about meeting the Christ.

**R3** Of how to find their way around the Bible.

- Know the story of Abraham speaking to God about Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Understand that this story teaches about the mercy and forgiveness of God.
- Be able to empathise with Abraham's thoughts at this event.

**L9** That review of life is important for Christian living.

- Know about the Examination of Conscience
- Understand how it helps Christians in following Christ
- Create their own version of the Examination of Conscience.

**L10** Of God's love and mercy which are freely given; the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's love and forgiveness.

- Know that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the Church's celebration of God's mercy and forgiveness.
- Understand the meaning of the terms absolution and penance.
- Be able to think of reasons why this Sacrament is important to people today.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

On the map of the Holy Land. Find some of the places mentioned in the story of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman.

You might consider revising previous work in Year Five about the seven Sacraments and about Reconciliation being a Sacrament of Healing.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Lk. 15: 19-31* – The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus

*Mt. 6: 1-8, 16-18* – The Teaching of Jesus on Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

*Mt. 25: 31-45* – The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats.

*Mt. 5: 1-12* – The Beatitudes of Jesus

*Lk. 6: 20-26*

*Jn. 4: 1-40* – The Samaritan Woman at the Well

*Genesis: 18: 20-32* – Abraham appeals to God.

*Psalms 50* – A Psalm seeking God's Mercy and Forgiveness

## OTHER LINKS

Geography links: Identify countries of poverty in the world today.

ICT links: Power-Point presentations on the work of CAFOD as a relief agency of the Church.

Social Development: Implementing some charitable work in the school during Lent and setting an example to the younger children.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Reinforce the importance of prayer time in Lent through the teaching of Jesus that you study in this unit.
- Pray for the global family, especially those who live their lives in poverty.
- Pray for the work of relief agencies who care for the needs of the poor.
- Pray for prisoners and their families.
- Pray for the sick.
- Use the Examination of Conscience in class prayer time.

## EVALUATION

**What went well?**

**Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?**

**What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?**