

YEAR

5

UNIT K

# THE WORK OF THE APOSTLES

## ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit has been designed to help the pupils understand the significant role the Apostles played in proclaiming the Good News. Pupils will reflect on the work of the Apostles as building the foundations of the Church which continues to proclaim the Good News of Christ today.

## WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous work in Year 4 at Pentecost on the Missionary work of the Apostles.

## PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of the Pentecost story and the change the Holy Spirit brought to the lives of the Apostles.

## SKILLS

Discussion skills, map work, empathetic writing, speaking and listening, research and referencing skills.

## VOCABULARY

Apostles, Book of Acts Pentecost, Names of the Apostles.

## ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** have a knowledge of the work of the Apostles after Pentecost. They will understand some reasons why they were so keen to proclaim the Resurrection of Christ to the world.

A.T.1

A.T.2

3b  
4a

3c

**Less able children will** know some stories of the Apostles after Pentecost and about their missionary work.

3a

3c

**More able children will** identify and discuss many of the teachings and activities of the Apostles after Pentecost. Recognise the importance of the early Church community in the lives of the Apostles.

4a  
4b  
4c

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

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

- Revise with the children the names of the Apostles of Jesus.
- Look at the content and the structure of the New Testament.
- Identify the names of the four Gospels and understand that they record the life of Jesus.
- Look briefly at the Acts of the Apostles. Can the children see what some of the stories are about?
- Explore idea/concept of a “cliff-hanger”. Imagine what would have happened if the Apostles had not proclaimed the Resurrection of Jesus. People would have been left on a “cliff-hanger”.

**Ch2** The life and growth of the first Christian communities: Peter, Stephen and Paul.

- Recall previous learning about Pentecost and how the Apostles’ lives were changed by this event.
- What does the name “Apostle” mean?
- The Apostles of Jesus were sent out after Pentecost to preach the Good News of the Resurrection.
- Read the story of the preaching of Peter on the first Pentecost Sunday.
- Highlight from the text the main elements of the message of Peter. What does this message tell us about Christ? Why was it so important for him to proclaim this message?

**Ch3** The teaching role of the Apostles through the New Testament.

- Explore the story of the Beggar at the Beautiful Gate.
- Identify where this gate is on the map of the City of Jerusalem.
- Make a table to record the words of the beggar, the words of Peter and John and the reactions of the people.
- From the information gathered, how was Peter able to heal the man? In whose name did he heal him?

- Explain to the children that the Apostles and the first followers of Jesus shared their lives together.
- Read Acts 2:42-47. What do we learn about the first Christian community from this text?
- Why do you think it was important for the Apostles to do these things together?
- What does the “breaking of bread” refer to?

- Read and role-play the story of Stephen.
- Hot-seat Stephen to discover what his feelings might have been at this time. Why was he so keen to be a follower of Christ?
- Children to write an account as if they were Stephen. Explore the issues of conflict that Stephen faced and how he dealt with them.
- Revise previous learning about a martyr. Explore the idea of Stephen giving his life for his belief in Christ.

- Read the story of the Apostles being thrown into prison. In *Acts 5: 17-42*.
- What were the main reason for this happening?
- Revise previous learning about the High Priest and the Sanhedrin.
- Create a courtroom scene and write position papers for or against the Apostles being allowed to preach.
- Some children could act as the jury and can reach a verdict.
- What qualities would the Apostles have needed to have to face all of this?

- Read and dramatise the story of Peter escaping from Prison with the help of the angel. Use percussion and other musical instruments for sound effects.
- Brainstorm thoughts of what it would have been like in this prison. Imagine Peter’s

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Know that the New Testament contains four gospels that tell the story of the life of Jesus.
- Know that the Acts of the Apostles describes the story of the first Christians after the Resurrection of Christ.

**Ch2** Of how the Church spread through the first Christian communities.

**Ch3** Of how the Church spread through the first Christian communities.

- Know the story of Peter preaching at Pentecost.
- Be able to recall the main elements of the message of Peter.

- Know the story of the Healing at the Beautiful Gate.
- Understand why Peter and John were able to perform this miracle.

- Know that the Apostles shared a common life together.
- Understand some reasons why it was important for the disciples to share a common life together.

- Know the story of Stephen.
- Understand why he was martyred.
- Be able to think about sacrifices that are sometimes needed to follow Christ.

- Know the story of the Apostles being thrown into prison.
- Understand some reasons why this happened.
- Be able to imagine the qualities the disciples would have needed.

- Know the story of Peter in Prison.
- Understand why God protected him and led him to freedom through the work of the angel.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Create some artwork from these images of the early Church.

Explain to the children that to be a follower of Christ and a member of the Church means that you are united with others who share your beliefs.

Some of the children might belong to the altar server Guild of St. Stephen. This might be an opportunity for them to share something about this with the rest of the class.

continued...

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

thoughts and feelings. What kept him going during this time?

- Write an account of this event as the angel leading Peter to freedom. Explain the reasons why you were sent to perform this act.
  
- Recall previous learning in Year Four about the conversion of St. Paul and his teaching.
- Why do you think Paul had previously been a persecutor of Christians? What changed his life?
- Paul went on three important journeys to preach the Good News about the Resurrection of Christ. Look at the following quotations from the Acts of the Apostles and trace his journeys.  
Journey One in *Acts 13-14*  
Journey Two in *Acts 15:36-18:22*  
Journey Three in *Acts 18:22-21:16*.
- Children to work in groups to trace the journey and summarise some of the things that happened on each journey.
- Share this information with the rest of the class and bring it together in a class display.
  
- Look at some of the Letters of St. Paul.
- Who were they written to?
- What are they often about?
- In the style of St. Paul write a letter to children in the school about the sort of lives they should lead and the way in which they should behave.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Know that St. Paul was an Apostle who wrote some of the New Testament Letters.
- Be able to trace some of the journey he made to proclaim the Good News of Christ's Resurrection.
- Understand that he taught and handed on many important things about Christ.
- Be able to write a letter in the style of St. Paul explaining how people can follow Jesus.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Photograph the role-play of this story and create a display for the class.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Acts 2: 14-41* – Peter’s speech on Pentecost Day

*Acts 3: 1-16* – The Beggar at the Beautiful Gate

*Acts 2: 42-47* – The Early Christian Community

*Acts 5: 17-42* – The Apostles in Prison

*Acts 6: 8-8:1* – The Story of Stephen

*Acts 9: 1-25* – The Conversion of Paul

*Acts 11: 27-12: 23* – Peter in Prison

*Acts 13-14* – The First Journey of St. Paul

*Acts 15: 36-18: 22* – The Second Journey of St. Paul

*Acts 18: 22-21: 16* – The Third Journey of St. Paul

## OTHER LINKS

Geography links: Lots of opportunities to discover where the Good News spread to Rome. Tradition tells us that both Peter and Paul ended up in Rome and gave their life for Christ. Reflect on the significance of the city for Catholics today.

Multi-cultural links: The Catholic Church is universal and multi-cultural.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Make a Litany of the Saints with the names of the Apostles.
- Pray for the Pope and the Bishops who have the special role of being the Apostles in the Church today.
- Pray for persecuted Christians.

## 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?**