



Schools learning resource

Drink from the well

A reflective resource to support assemblies, collective worship and SMSC development

Introduction

We live in extraordinary and confusing times. Our lives both in school and outside of school have, in many ways, been transformed. We've had to learn to live with new restrictions on our lives and adjust to the 'new normal'. For Christian Aid, as for many of the young people in our schools, the issues that concerned us pre Covid 19, continue to be as relevant and urgent now as then - issues around climate justice and the imbalance of wealth and power within the world. These reflective resources, 'Drink from the well', are designed to be used flexibly and to be adapted for your context; they can be used as a basis for an assembly, for Collective Worship or for a time of reflection to support personal wellbeing and SMSC across the curriculum. This set of resources will be added to on a regular basis and, to begin with, they will focus on the values which underpin the work of Christian Aid. We will seek to use a wide range of materials as a starting point for reflection and to introduce pupils to different voices from across the world.

Discussion ideas for secondary pupils

Read through the primary reflection examples ['Life giving water' and 'All you need is love'] first to help you to contextualize the discussion starters below and to enable you to build on the primary material, ensuring progression. You might like to adapt some of the primary content as an introduction to the following discussion themes.

All you need is love! What is love like?

One of the earliest followers of Jesus, called Paul, wrote some words to describe love. He described love as if it were a person – describing love's characteristics. Many Christians use these words to help them understand what love is like. Listen to this passage from the Bible and think about what it might look like if someone were to live this way.

⁴ Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. ⁵ Love is not rude, it is not selfish, and it cannot be made angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it. ⁶ Love is never happy when others do wrong, but it is always happy with the truth. ⁷ Love never gives up on people. It never stops trusting, never loses hope, and never quits. ⁸ Love will never end.

1 Corinthians 13 – Paul

You could try reading the passage again and rather than reading the word 'love' replace it with your name. How easy or difficult might it be to live out these characteristics?

When we talk about love, we often think about romantic love. However, our English word for love refers to many different types of love; love for family, friendship love, love of things (like your favourite food!) but also sacrificial, selfless love. Love isn't just a feeling, it's about making choices to act in ways that are loving.

Listen to the song 'Where is the Love?' by the Black Eyed Peas and reflect on what sort of love they want us to think about.

What sort of world is the song calling for / do the Black Eyed Peas want?

What could your school / local community look like if people showed more love? What could our world look like if people embodied the

characteristics that Paul wrote about in the Bible passage we read from 1 Corinthians?

Prayers/Reflections about love

Perhaps you could make a paper chain of prayers/reflections about love? Spend a few moments thinking about what it might mean to love another in our communities, in our country, and in our world? Make loops for a prayer/reflection chain to hang in the classroom – use the Bible passage to reflect on what love really is and then write your hopes or prayers for a more loving and just world on each loop.

[Links in the chain – love unites us...]

'Love builds hope' – what does this mean?

Reflect on the idea that love can build hope and think about what difference this might make in our world. Discuss the following quotes and what they might mean:

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

— *Desmond Tutu*

We are made for loving. If we don't love, we will be like plants without water.”

— *Desmond Tutu*

What do you think these quotes mean? Can you give examples of someone doing 'a little bit of good' where they are? (Think about someone at home, at school, in the local news...)

How might you as an individual or as a class / tutor group put this into action?

'Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage: anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain the way they are.'

(Attributed to Augustine Bishop of Hippo)

What do you think this quote means? Can it ever be ok to be angry? Do you think anger can ever be positive? How might someone channel their anger for good?

Why might courage be needed to put hope into action?

How far do you agree with the quotes?

What do you think 'love builds hope' really means? What might it look like in practice? Can you think of any examples of love building hope?

Using Imote's story to reflect further

Watch the film clip of Imote's story:

<https://youtu.be/NEIwH3-7z40>

What can we learn from Imote's story and actions?

How does this story give an example of love building hope? Can you think of other examples?

What do you think about the idea that 'love builds hope'?

How could you put this into practice? Think back to doing 'your little bit of good where you are' and having the courage to seek to change the unfair things that make you feel angry.

This week think about ways that you could put love into action and build hope. As a class / tutor group, perhaps you could 'build' a 'wall of hope'? Each person will need a brick shaped piece of paper or card. Write down loving actions that you have seen someone do on a brick shape and arrange them together to build your wall of hope. You could even use these to create a display which you could add to during the term and watch your wall grow as you see loving actions building hope. You might feel encouraged and inspired when you read the examples of loving actions written on the bricks. This can be a helpful reminder that love really can build hope.