

'Making a Difference': Religious Education Support Materials

These materials support the religious education enquiry process advocated in the local agreed syllabi in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The following activities are suggestions that may be used to support a learning enquiry based on 'Making a difference' as a lead into the GenR8 presentation or as follow up.

Engaging and Enquiring		
Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
People who have made a difference	What qualities do these people have? What do they have in common? How did they make a difference to others?	Show the children pictures of people who have made a difference e.g. famous people, local people, in the school...
The spoons sketch	How can the two people eat their food? What can we learn from this sketch? What message might this story have for us?	This is a sketch in the GenR8 presentation that could be used to start an enquiry. It focuses on the importance of teamwork. Two people try and feed themselves with long spoons, and then realise it would be better to feed each other.
The Feeding of the 5000	What puzzles you about this account? What question would you want to ask Jesus?	Use Godly Play or reflective storytelling to introduce the biblical narrative about the Feeding of the 5000. Ask the children to 'wonder' about the story.
Superheroes	What makes someone a superhero?	Discuss together with the children different kinds of superhero. Show images, and perhaps a clip from a film such as The Incredibles. Ask the children what kind of super power they might want to have and why.

Exploring

Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
The Feeding of the 5000	<p>How did the boy make a difference?</p> <p>What would you have done if you were the boy?</p> <p>What is the message of this story?</p>	<p>Re-enact or tell the story creatively perhaps using a story bag/box. Ask the children to imagine they are in the crowd. What would it have been like to be there? How would they have felt? What difference did this event make to the people then (and now)?</p> <p>What does the narrative tell people about the Christian idea of God?</p> <p>For an audio version: http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/jesus-feeds-the-5000/</p>
Biblical narratives	<p>How did... make a difference?</p> <p>What qualities did...have?</p> <p>What does the life of ... tell us about the Christian view of God?</p>	<p>Explore other biblical narratives about people who made a difference e.g. Joseph, David, Gideon, Esther. Children might learn about one or more characters and decide to what extent they 'made a difference'. You might use a 'making a difference' scale or 'thermometer' perhaps! Children could follow this up with fact-files, news articles or posters about their chosen character.</p>
People who make a difference today	<p>Can one person really make a difference?</p> <p>How can I make a difference in my school...community...?</p>	<p>Go back to the images from the engage stage. Explore in depth the life and work of someone like Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa, William Wilberforce, Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Fry, Edith Cavell (it is 100 years since her execution in October 2015). See http://www.revdc.net/cavell/ for information for teachers.</p>
Good Samaritan Parable	<p>What does it mean for Christians to 'love their neighbour'?</p>	<p>Read the introduction to the parable about loving God and loving one's neighbour. Then tell the story or invite the children to act it out. Discuss who in the story was the person who made a difference. Talk about the qualities of this person and how they loved their neighbour.</p>
Food Banks and homeless shelters	<p>How do Christians express their love for others?</p>	<p>Explore the work of a local charity such as a local food bank or homeless shelter. Invite someone into school to talk about the work they do and how it makes a difference to others.</p>
Christian Charities	<p>How do Christians work to transform lives?</p> <p>How do Christians work to transform the environment?</p>	<p>Children could undertake research. See for example: http://request.org.uk/people-places/2013/08/05/a-rocha-a-christian-environmental-charity/</p> <p>http://request.org.uk/people-places/organisations/charities/2013/10/27/the-leprosy-mission-england-wales-2/</p> <p>www.christianaid.org.uk</p>
Love	<p>What does it mean to love others?</p> <p>How can love make a difference to people?</p>	<p>Explore the concept of love e.g. using 1 Corinthians 13, the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus' teachings on love. Refer to the concept of 'agape' - sacrificial love. What exactly do we mean by 'love'? How do Christians believe God shows love?</p>

Evaluating and Expressing		
Focus	Suggested questions to challenge and inspire	Suggested activities to deepen understanding
Job adverts	What would a Christian superhero look like? What qualities would they have?	Create a job advert poster for a Christian 'superhero'. What qualities would they have? How would they try and make a difference? Children design an outfit as well as the qualities the person would have.
Poetry	How can we express Christian ideas, and our own ideas about love?	Create poetry about love or rewrite 1 Corinthians 13 in contemporary text.
Love artwork	What does it mean to love others? What does it mean for Christians to say they love God?	Create artwork based on 1 Corinthians 13 or another biblical passage about love. Children talk about what they have created and why.
Interview	How does ... show love in action? What can people learn from the life of ...?	Children create imaginary interviews with a famous person who has made a difference. This could be in the form of a 'chat show' or 'hot seating' activity. Children could create a TV show perhaps.
Set up a charity	What have we learned about Christian teachings? How can Christians make a difference today?	Children use what they have learned about Christian teachings in the bible about love and making a difference. They design their own new charity to meet the needs of a community (locally or globally). They explain how this charity demonstrates Christian beliefs. Children might present their charities in a 'market place' or 'dragons' den' style activity.
Design a webpage	How can we promote the Christian teachings on love for our neighbour? What have we learned about Christian teachings?	Linked to the activity above. Children might design a web page for a current, or new Christian charity. They should think about how the home page will demonstrate the key Christian teachings on loving ones neighbour and making a difference.
What would Jesus do today?	How can Christians today express their love for others? What would Jesus do in our community today? What difference does believing in Jesus make to people? What impact does belief in Jesus have on people today?	http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/news/jesus-feeds-the-5000-on-brighton-beach/ Use this as an example to explore what Christians might do today to 'make a difference' like the little boy in the feeding of the 5000 narrative. Children might present their ideas in groups to the rest of the class. Children might create a new 'fashion item' to update the WWJD (what would Jesus do?) bracelets that were popular a few years ago.