

KS2 Unit 2, Lesson 3: What did Jesus teach about love? Agape

Context: Previously children will have learned about why Jesus is important to Christians (Key Stage 1 Unit 9) and will be familiar with the narratives of the Christmas and Easter stories, as well as some other bible stories.

Overview:

- Children will learn the word 'Agape' (see below) and understand how it relates to the story of the Good Samaritan
- Children will learn about the life story of Edith Cavell and how she demonstrated Agape in her life.

Essential core:

Belief – Agape (selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love). Pupils should know and understand:

- How does the story (of the Good Samaritan) display disinterested love (agape): freely given; generous; selfless; self-sacrificing?
- Support their attempt to answer the relevant questions they raise in response to their enquiry into the Good Samaritan parable using reasons and information to support their views.

Vocabulary: Agape, Good Samaritan

Resources: access to internet; cartoon strip sheet (differentiated)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/28095692>

INTRODUCTION

Ask children the questions: What is love? Allow children time to think, share with a partner and then take some responses. Then ask them, who or what do you love? Again give them time to think, share with a partner and with the class. Through the discussion, help the children to see that there are different sorts of love, and different things that we, as humans, love. For example, we say that we 'love' different sorts of food, we love our pets, and we also love our families. Is the love we have for, say, our parents, the same as the love we have for ice cream? Is the love that boyfriends and girlfriends, or married couples have for each other the same or a different kind of love? Do people that are friends love each other? You will need to steer the discussion carefully and sensitively, depending on the children's maturity, and their responses to the questions.

Ask the questions: Is there love in the story of 'The Good Samaritan'? Who showed love? What kind of love was this?

Introduce the word 'Agape' and tell children that this is a word to describe the kind of love that the Samaritan showed for the wounded man. It means 'love that expects nothing in return', or 'unconditional love'. How did the Samaritan show 'agape' love to the man?

How might Christians today try to show Agape love?

Watch the video clip of the life of Edith Cavell, and discuss how she demonstrated Agape love by caring for all the soldiers, regardless of their nationality, and without expecting any reward. In fact, the reward she did receive for her work was death by firing squad.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/28095692>

Children could complete a cartoon strip of the story of the Good Samaritan, explaining how 'Agape' love comes into the story.

Alternatively, they could compare the similarities in the stories of Edith Cavell and the Good Samaritan.

PLENARY

Ask the children: Has anyone ever shown you 'Agape' love- Love that is unconditional and expects nothing in return? A good example is the love a mother or parent shows to their baby by caring for its every need, even though a baby can't give anything back.