

Redemption explained - Godly play

Why is Jesus dying on a cross so important to Christians?

This explores the Christian belief of "redemption" in the style of Godly play. Gather the pupils together as for circle time. You will need the pictures of a Judge, money, cross and a convict attached. Place the pictures on the floor or point to them as you tell the story. Slow down and tell this in a quiet thoughtful manner, giving space for reflection.

Ask "why is Jesus dying on the cross so important to Christians? (Some may offer an answer). A word to explain this belief is redemption (paying a debt). Christians believe that Jesus death on the cross paid a debt that they could not repay. It can be explained like this:

	<p>Imagine ... that there was a judge.</p>
<p>A case is brought before him. As the Judge hears the evidence, he can see the man is clearly guilty. He did a very bad thing. The judge has no choice about the verdict he must give.</p>	
	<p>Except ... the judge sees that the man is very, very sorry. He wishes he had never done that bad thing and never wants to do it again. Have you ever felt like that? Now the Judge feels really, really sorry for him. What do you think the Judge should do? Guilty! The judge declares the man guilty and gives him the stiffest fine the law allows.</p>
<p>Immediately the Judge leaves the courtroom and pays the fine in full from his own pocket. Why did he do that? How do you think this made the guilty man feel?</p>	
	<p>Christians believe that God himself will one day judge everyone for what they have done.</p>

The Bible says that "all have sinned." It says everyone has disobeyed God and messed up. The things people have done wrong have spoiled our world. What things?
What do you think - is this true?



The Bible also says that "God so loved the people of the world. " Although people are guilty, God feels deep compassion - even for the very worst offender. He loves everyone.

Money The Bible goes on to say that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Many Christians believe that through faith in Jesus death on the cross their debt to God for all the wrong things that they have done has been paid in full. By owning up to God, wanting to change and accepting this forgiveness they can be forgiven. How do you think this makes Christians feel? Have you ever felt guilty about something that you did? What did you do to sort it out? Should everyone be forgiven? What do you think about this belief?

