

KS2 Unit 1, Lesson 9 - Am I kind?

Context: In this lesson, we are asking pupils to explore the concept of kindness, fairness, and of treating others as we would like to be treated.

Overview:

- Explore the concept of fairness, and how we feel when something happens that is unfair.
- Jesus taught that people should "do as you would be done by" (Matt 7:12) How does this help us to treat others fairly?

Essential core: -

Jesus told his followers, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13:35. Give examples of the ways that the Christian Church shows the love of God both to its members and across society, in the UK and wider world today. E.g. visiting the sick, chaplains, hospices, food banks, rehabilitation of prisoners and addicts, helping the homeless, street pastors, promoting fair trade, aid work, education and working with youth.

Resources:

Vocabulary: Golden Rule, agape

INTRODUCTION

Talk about things that you knew were unkind and unfair. Ask pupils to discuss in small groups things that happened to them that were unfair. How did it make them feel? Feedback some examples to the class. Now introduce the ideas of kindness and fairness and again discuss personal experiences in small groups and feedback.

APPLICATION:

Jesus taught about treating others kindly, as we would want to be treated. Read extracts from Matthew chapter 7:1-12. Jesus says that people should not judge and criticise others and goes on to describe the kindness of God in answering prayers. He ends by saying that we should also be kind as God is, and "do to others what you would have them do to you." Christians call this the "Golden Rule," because people who live like that will always treat others with fairness and kindness.

Going further: Is this fair?

Another word for this fairness is reciprocity. But is it possible to be even kinder?

Jesus went further by commanding his followers to show agape love (unselfish, sacrificial love) to others even when it was unfair to themselves.

"Love your enemies, do good to them." (Luke 6:35) Forgive men when they sin against you." (Matthew 6:14. In the way that he lived, Jesus set an example of always humbly helping others. He said, "Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another."

What do we think of this kind of Agape love? What would it be like if everyone lived like this? Is it easy? Should we always forgive?

Plenary:

What is the "Golden Rule?" is it fair? Is it the same as Agape?