

Key Stage 2 follow up RE lesson on the Good Shepherd

NC Links

- 1a) describe the key aspects of religions, especially the people, stories and traditions that influence the beliefs and values of others

Reading: Begin by reading Jesus the Good Shepherd from John 10 v 7 – 18 or read the extract below:

One day Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd, who is ready to die for his sheep. A man who is hired to look after the flock does not really care about it because he knows that the sheep do not really belong to him. When the hungry wolf appears, the man runs away, and the sheep are worried or scattered. I know each of my sheep by name, and they know the sound of my voice. They will always follow me and I am ready to give up my life for them."

John

10:11-15

Suggested questions:

- 1) What is a shepherd? *Someone who looks after sheep*
- 2) Who does the Good Shepherd represent? *Jesus*
- 3) What do you think makes a good shepherd? *A good shepherd cares for the needs of his sheep – finding them pasture and water, shelter from the weather, and protecting them from wild animals and danger. He watches over them at all times and knows each of them individually.*
- 4) What did Jesus say about the hired man? *A hired man was paid to look after a flock of sheep. The sheep did not belong to him and he didn't particularly care about them. So when a wolf appeared, the hired man worried more about his own safety and abandoned the flock.*
- 5) How would you describe a sheep to someone? *White, woolly, bleating. Timid and gentle animals which like to be kept together with other sheep in a flock. They are not particularly clever and get themselves into all sorts of trouble unless someone is taking care of them.*
- 6) Describe the relationship between the Good Shepherd and his sheep. *The Good Shepherd knows his sheep by name and the sheep in turn know the sound of the shepherd's voice. The sheep will always follow the shepherd and the shepherd will do anything for his sheep.*
- 7) Do you think Jesus was talking only about sheep? *Jesus is the Good Shepherd and we are his 'flock'. He told this story to make us understand that he cares for us as much as the shepherd cares for his sheep. He watches over us at all times, and knows each of us by name. He goes before us to guide and keep us from all harm. He takes care of all our needs and we can trust in his goodness.*
- 8) When Jesus said he was prepared to give up his life for his flock, what did he mean? *Jesus' love was so strong that he was willing to suffer and die on the cross for our sakes. His sacrifice meant that we can follow him to heaven, where we will share eternal life with him.*

Activity: Ask children to copy out the extract above and decorate it in an appropriate manner, maybe using words from the passage e.g. drawing a picture of a shepherd or some sheep.

Closing time of reflection: Light a candle and get the children to think about Jesus as the Good Shepherd as you read this prayer:

Jesus,

You are the Good Shepherd and we are your flock. Help us to know your voice and always follow you.

Key Stage 2 follow up PSHE lesson on the Good Shepherd

NC Links:

- 4g where individuals, families and groups can get help and support.

Ask the following questions as a basis for discussion.

1. Who cares for you?

2. How do they make you feel safe?
3. How is this similar to the relationship between the Good Shepherd and the sheep?
4. Do all children have someone to love and care for them? *Encourage children to think of children in care who don't necessarily have parents or close family members to look after them.*

Begin to discuss the work of the Catholic Children's Society by reading this statement from the society.

The Catholic Children's Society will help to make children and young people's lives better. The Society will help to keep children safe and to stay with their own families where they can. Where children have no-one to care for them, the Society will help them to find a home and a loving family.

This information was compiled by the Catholic Children's Society (Arundel & Brighton, Portsmouth & Southwark)

Reg. charity No. 233296 www.cathchild.org

January 2007