



Weekly Resources for Schools

PHASE: PRIMARY

Does our behaviour matter?

THEME: Poverty



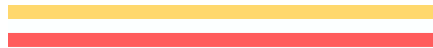


KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

Poverty often refers to a lack of the essentials for living, including food, shelter and clothes. In the UK and globally, there are many who lack access to these necessities. At the same time, there are many who have an abundance of such resources.

In the New Testament, Jesus is described as having a real heart for those who are in need. In his teaching and his action, he encourages all to offer their time, talents and treasure to help others, including those who are less fortunate. There are countless examples of those who have been inspired by Jesus' call to share with, love and support others and help them to flourish.

We can all make a difference. I wonder how we might use our time, talents and treasure to help others?



I cannot do all the good the
world needs. But the world
needs all the good that I can do.

Jana Stanfield



BIBLE STORY OF THE WEEK:

Matthew 25: 34-40



'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Gathering

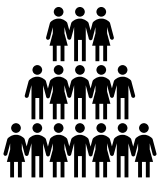


Follow the school's normal gathering routine. You might like to ask pupils to consider the following questions:

- Do you think the world is a fair place?
- What do you think needs to change in the world to make it a better place for all?

Engagement

Many people, when they think about these questions, reply that the world is not a fair place. In the UK and around the world, there are many who live in poverty. Poverty means living without life's essentials such as food, clean water, clothes and shelter. As stated in the Faith at Home video (<https://tinyurl.com/yrr5wns4>), if the world was 100 people:



87 have access to clean water, 13 do not

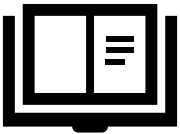
77 have shelter, 23 don't

86 can read and write, 14 can't

15 make less than £1.50 a day, 83 make between £1.50 and £65, 1 makes more

Out of those 100 people, one would control 50% of all the money in the world

There is a real difference between many who 'have', and many who 'have not'.



The bible explains how Jesus really cares for those in need. In his teaching and his action, he encourages all to offer their time, talents and treasure to help others, including those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Once, he told the story of a king who was pleased with those who had chosen to help others. The King was delighted with those who:

- Gave those who were hungry, something to eat
- Gave those who were thirsty, something to drink
- Gave those who needed it, clothes to keep warm
- Gave those who were ill, medicine and care

The King said, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25: 40)

Many around the world have been inspired by Jesus' teaching and actions to give their time, talents and treasure to help others. Some examples include:



Volunteering for a local charity
Raising money through charity runs



Organising a fund-raising or awareness event
Starting campaigns to make a positive change (such as Marcus Rashford)



Giving to a local foodbank
Donating money, clothes and toys to charity

Feel free to draw attention to any support, charitable giving and/or courageous advocacy which has emerged from within the school community.

Can you think of any other examples or people giving their time, talents and/or treasure to help others, including those who are less fortunate?

Response

Show one of the translations of Proverbs 3:27:

‘Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it’. (Good News Translation)

‘Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it’. (NRSV)

We can all make a positive difference in the world; we can all help make the world a fairer place for all.

I wonder how we might use our time, talents and/or treasure to help others, including those less fortunate?

You might like to reflect individually or share your thoughts with a partner.



If you'd like to, ask God to help you give your time, talents or treasure to help others.

You might also like to listen to Nick and Becky Drake's 'Golden Rule' Live Sing-A-Long:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GG5Oe8nxR0>

Sending

Dear God,
Thank you that you care for each one of us,
and for the time, talents and treasure you have given us.
Please help us to use these things to do good,
and make the world a fairer and more equal place for all.
Amen.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

(practical ways to help us explore faith and develop spiritually at home together)

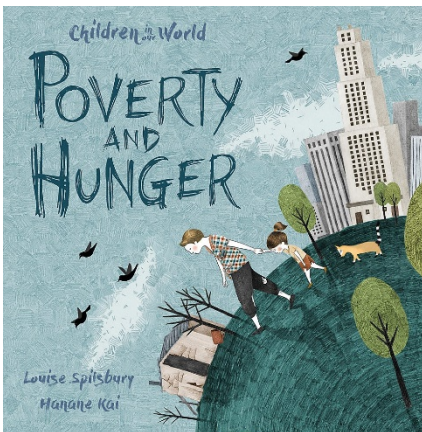
EXPERIENCES that can help us ENCOUNTER:

You might like to do this 'Empty Plate' activity by Prayer Spaces in Schools, to help reflect about those who may not eat today, or eat very little (<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/87>).

A 'whole world' reflection from Soul Space can prompt thinking about our hopes and prayers for those who are living in poverty (<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/stories/390>). You will need a world map or globe and post-it notes for this activity.

'Around the world, many people don't have enough food, water or clothes to live well. 1 billion people are hungry today. 3 billion cannot get clean water.

Stick your hope or prayer on the world map in the places where there are situations you care about.'



Read 'Poverty and Hunger' by Louise Spilsbury. The book explains some of the main reasons for poverty in the world today and how some people try and make a difference.

- I wonder what stands out to you?
- I wonder how reading this book makes you feel? Why?

ACTIVITIES that can develop PRACTICES-HABITS:

Examen

Use the EXAMEN prayer to reflect on helping others. It has five steps, so you might like to count them on your fingers.

1. GIVE THANKS for those who help you
2. ASK FOR HELP to help others
3. REFLECT on your day and think about times you acted in a loving way to others 😊 and those times you didn't 😞
4. SAY SORRY for the times you weren't as loving as you could have been
5. DECIDE how you will help others tomorrow

To discover more about using the Ignatian Examen with children, listen to this [podcast](#).



The collective worship plan this week helps us to think about how we can use our time, talents and treasure to help others, including those who are less fortunate. To help remind us of how we could help others, why not set yourself the challenge this week of thinking how you could use your time to help others every time you see a clockface?

CONVERSATIONS which CONNECT COMMUNITIES



Read the quote from Proverbs 3:27.

- What do you think is the most important part of this sentence?
- 'The world would be a much better place if all followed this saying'. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- Can you think of any other sayings like it?
- What good might you be able to do through working together? How might you each be able to use your time, talents and treasures to help those in need?

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP – OUR APPROACH

INVITATIONAL

Everyone is welcome to take part in collective worship, as much or as little as they or their parents and carers are comfortable with. This means we use invitational language and consider carefully our choice of words and songs. Children are invited to pray but are not compelled or expected to do so; they always have a choice. We invite them to pray or reflect in whatever way they would usually as a family, if that is part of their home experience.

INCLUSIVE

Acts of worship need to be inclusive of all. Therefore, we choose topics and ideas that are shared by different faiths and worldviews. When we present Christian teaching, we make it clear that this is 'what Christians believe', saying things like:

'I wonder why this story might be important to Christians?'

'The story today comes from the Bible (the holy book of Christians), which teaches that ...'

Our worship should be accessible for children and young people with a range of different backgrounds, and so we take care that activities do not require expensive resources. We also offer a variety of activities, so that children and young people with differing needs can all find something they can engage with.

INSPIRING

We aim for our acts of worship to inspire those engaging with them. How might it engage their emotions, enabling a sense of peace, comfort, hope or motivation? How might it inspire them into action, into thinking differently and considering their behaviour or actions? How might it inspire them to reflect on their faith or beliefs, and on the faith or beliefs of others?

