

Year 3&4 Key Stage 2



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File

Year 4 units of work - Inspirational people - Mother Teresa





Lesson 5 Mother Teresa

The big picture

Mother Teresa is one of the most admired people of the twentieth century. She is admired for carrying out her Christian beliefs in an extremely difficult setting. She was a Catholic nun who devoted her whole life to serving God. The class will spend time thinking about what made her inspirational to people and why she chose to behave in the way she did. What was her inspiration? They will have the opportunity to think about how the way she lived her life affected the people of India.

Learning objectives

- To consider what inspired Mother Teresa to work in the way she did with the destitute and dying in India.
- To think about how they might be inspired to behave when they see poverty.

Success criteria

- Pupils will be able to explain the inspiration behind the work of Mother Teresa and be able to say what they think they would do when they see poverty.

Religious Education Council Requirements

A1, A2, B2, B3, C2, C3

Resources

- Resource sheet 8: 'The life of Mother Teresa'
- **CD Image gallery, page 13:** Inspirational people (portrait of Mother Teresa)
- **Resource sheet 9:** 'Quotes from Mother Teresa'
- Candle and matches or quiet music

Vocabulary

Catholic, nun, poverty

Key questions ?

What inspired Mother Teresa to work with dying people?
How does the life of Mother Teresa inspire others?
How would you react if you saw people suffering in poverty?

Introduction

Share the learning objective: 'In today's lesson we are going to learn about another person who had a life changing moment. You are going to think about what made them act in this way. You will also have the chance to consider your own future, and how you will act when faced with someone who is poor and needs your help.'

Tell the class the following scenario, stopping at key points to ask people what they would do if it were them.

A nun is walking through the city where she works. It is quite late at night. Around the corner she can hear a woman's voice calling out for help. The nun goes around the corner and finds the woman who is obviously extremely ill. She takes the woman to the nearest hospital but the doctors say there is nothing that can be done for her and refuse to take her. The nun knows the woman is dying but refuses to leave until the doctors treat her. They eventually take her in but she dies of her injuries. When the nun leaves the hospital she goes straight to the town hall to ask them to give her somewhere to look after people like the dying woman, who have nowhere else to go.

Introduce the class to the life of Mother Teresa. This was the turning point in Mother Teresa's life. Before this she had been an obedient nun teaching rich Indian children in Calcutta. But after this meeting with a dying woman she committed her life to the poor and dying in the city of Calcutta.

Activities

Stimulus

Mother Teresa described what happened to herself as 'a call within a call'. Who or what do the class think Mother Teresa thought was calling her?

She asked permission from the Catholic Church to support the desperately poor and dying in India. She began by taking the dying off the streets into a home and providing somewhere comfortable for them to die in peace and dignity. Eventually she also started an orphanage. She believed that every time she looked after someone she was looking after 'Jesus in disguise'.

Use the timeline (resource sheet 8) to talk through with the class some of the important points in Mother Teresa's life. Show them the portrait (image gallery page 13) and introduce some of the quotes that reveal her ideas (resource sheet 9).

Response

Ask the class to think about the work that Mother Teresa did, and carried on doing, right up until she died at the age of 87. She not only helped those who were dying, but also took in abandoned and unwanted babies.

Divide the class into pairs and ask them to imagine a moment from Mother Teresa's life. They could choose the moment when she found the woman dying in the street, when she received the Noble Peace Prize, or when she took in an abandoned child, for example. Ask them to write and act out a short sketch of their chosen point in Mother Teresa's life. Encourage people, when writing and acting out their short sketches, to think about why Mother Teresa acted as she did. What inspired her and how did she share her inspiration with others?

Plenary

Give people the opportunity to read through and, for the more adventurous, act out their sketches. Explain that not every Christian acts in the same way as Mother Teresa and that other Christians show their faith in different ways. Can anyone think of what these might be?

Light a candle or play some quiet music and ask people to think about what it was about Mother Teresa that made her so inspiring to so many people. Whilst there is still a thoughtful atmosphere ask people to write down their ideas about the inspiring nature of Mother Teresa in their RE books.

If some people in your class find sentence starters helpful, ask them to respond to the following sentences:

- 'Mother Teresa is inspiring because...'
- 'She gained her inspiration from...'
- 'If I saw people who were suffering in poverty I would...'
- 'Learning about Mother Teresa today makes me think...'

Differentiation

This work is accessible by all abilities.

(By support) sensitive pairing may be needed when working together on the sketches. If you put the class into pairs of similar ability, some pairs may need some support writing down their ideas.

Extension

More able people will be expected to write and perform more detailed sketches, showing more examples of the motivation of Mother Teresa.



Name:

Date:

The life of Mother Teresa

27 August 1910

Mother Teresa was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Yugoslavia, which is now part of Macedonia. She was the youngest of three children born to an Albanian builder.

1928

She joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Loreto. She trained in Dublin and Darjeeling.

1930–1948

She taught at St Mary's High School, eventually becoming the school's headteacher.

1946

She has 'a call within a call' to serve the poor, sick and dying of Calcutta.

1948

She received permission to leave the convent and help the poor, sick and dying in the slums of Calcutta.

1950

She started a religious order of nuns called the Missionaries of Charity.

1952

She started the Nirmal Hriday home for the dying in Calcutta. Nirmal Hriday means 'Pure Heart'.

1979

She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Instead of the normal banquet to celebrate she insisted that the banquet was cancelled and the money donated to the poor.

March 1997

Mother Teresa stepped down as the head of the order.

5 September 1997

Mother Teresa died of a heart attack.



Name:

Date:

Quotes from Mother Teresa

'Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.'

'If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.'

'God does not require us to succeed; He only requires that we try.'

'We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.'

'I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish He didn't trust me so much.'

'Peace begins with a smile.'

'I want you to be concerned about your next door neighbour. Do you know your next door neighbour?'

'If you judge people, you have no time to love them.'

'Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.'