

Year 5&6 Key Stage 2



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File

Year 5 units of work - Justice - Prayers for Justice





Lesson 4 Prayers for justice

The big picture

This lesson gives people the opportunity to look at what different religions say about the idea of justice. For example, the idea of a just God is important in Islam, Christianity and Judaism.

This lesson focuses on a selection of prayers from different religions which express ideas about the importance of justice.

Learning objective

- To understand some religious teaching about justice around the world.

Success criteria

- Pupils will be able to explain what some religions say about how people of that faith should behave when they know there is injustice in a situation.

Religious Education Council Requirements

A1, A2, A3, B1, B2, C2, C3

Resources

- **Resource sheet 6:** 'Justice quotes'
- Candles and soft music (optional)
- **Resource sheet 7:** 'Prayers for justice'
- Interactive whiteboard (optional)
- Sticky notes
- Drawing and writing equipment

Vocabulary

Bible, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, justice, mercy, obeisance, oppress, poverty, prayer, Qur'an, righteous

Key questions ?

What do some religions teach about justice?

Introduction

Ensure that, as people enter the classroom, you either have the quotes and sayings about justice (**Resource sheet 6**) displayed on the digital projector or have them prominently displayed so that everyone can read them.

Leave an instruction card on each table asking people to choose and copy one of the phrases they agree with. If they have time, ask them to decorate their writing with appropriate images. Try to ensure that the beginning of this lesson is as quiet as possible to allow people to quietly consider the quotes. You may want to soften the lighting in the classroom or use candles; some quiet music might aid thinking and encourage work. Discuss with the class why they chose their particular quote.

Introduce the learning objective: 'In this lesson you will study some prayers about justice that could be prayed by members of different religions and write a prayer or thought of your own.'

Activities

Stimulus

Explain to the class that all religions teach that followers should attempt to promote justice around the world. Show them the prayers on **Resource sheet 7** and read through them without making any comment.

Divide the class into pairs and give each one a prayer. Ask them to use sticky notes to write down any questions they have about the prayer. They should also write any notes they can that will help explain to other people what the prayer means. Allow them about five minutes to complete this activity.

As a whole class discuss their questions and comments on the prayers and attempt to answer their questions. If you have an interactive whiteboard you could write any notes around the prayers.

Ask each pair to get together with two other pairs who have looked at different prayers. As a group, ask them to come up with a list of similarities and differences between the three prayers. Before they complete this activity, model the work for them.

Allow the groups about ten minutes to analyse the similarities and differences and then share the ideas they have discussed and note them on the board. If there are any ideas that people have missed, add them to the list.

Response

Ask the class to return to their original pairs for the final activity. Tell them they can choose to write a prayer about justice that either a Hindu, Christian or Muslim child might say. Give people the option to write a reflection that might be said by someone who was unsure about the existence of God or who did not believe in God.

Remind people to include some of the ideas about justice and forgiveness that they have looked at so far.

Plenary

Invite some people to share their prayers with the rest of the class.

After listening to some of the prayers ask the class to think of one thing that they, or a person from one of the religions they have looked at, could do to make a situation fairer either locally or in the world. Share some of their ideas.

Explain that in the next lesson they will have the opportunity to look at some projects that have tried to create justice in some unfair situations.

Differentiation

Less able people could be given a writing frame to support the writing of the prayer.

Extension

More able people could research other quotes or prayers about justice.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Justice quotes

‘Learn to do right!’

See that justice is done. Help those who are oppressed.
Defend the orphan, fight for the rights of widows.’

Judaism and Christianity – The Bible, Isaiah 1:17

‘If you oppress poor people, you insult the God who made them;
but whoever is kind to the needy, honours God.’

Judaism and Christianity – The Bible, Proverbs 14:31

‘Stop your noisy songs;

I do not want to listen to the melody of your harps.
Instead, let justice roll down like waters,
And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.’

Judaism and Christianity – The Bible, Amos 5:23–24

‘And act justly. Truly God loves those who are just.’

Islam – The Qur’an, 49:9

‘They feed with food the needy wretch, the orphan, and the prisoner,
for love of him saying, “We wish for no reward nor thanks from you.”’

Islam – The Qur’an, 76:8–9

‘The best deed of a great man is to forgive and forget.’

Islam – The Qur’an, 64:14



Name: _____

Date: _____

Prayers for justice

Hinduism

Here is thy footstool and there rest thy feet where live the poorest, and lowliest, and lost.

When I try to bow to thee, my obeisance cannot reach down to the depth where thy feet rest amongst the poorest, and lowliest and lost.

Pride can never approach to where thou walkest in the clothes of the humble among the poorest, and lowliest and lost.

My heart can never find its way to where thou keepest company with the companionless among the poorest, the lowliest and the lost.

Christianity

O God,
To those who have hunger give bread;
And to us who have bread give the hunger for justice.

Islam

Al – Fatihah

In the Name of Allah, the most Gracious, Most Merciful.

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, The Merciful, the Mercy-giving, Master of the Day of Judgement.

You alone we worship, and You alone we ask for help.

Guide us along the straight path, the path of those whom you have favoured, not those who earn your anger nor those who go astray.