

WORLD WAR ONE CENTENARY RESOURCES

THE MORALITY OF WAR A LESSON FOR 11-TO 14-YEAR-OLDS



Introduction

In this lesson pupils will reflect on The Salvation Army's involvement in World War One as a Christian church, and consider what the Bible teaches Christians about conflict and peace. Pupils will reflect on their own beliefs about the morality of war.

Resources

- PowerPoint presentation
- Bible teachings card sort
- Opinion graph
- International Positional Statement

Lesson Outcomes

- To reflect on the involvement of The Salvation Army in supporting soldiers during World War One
- To understand and be able to explain Christian beliefs about war and peace
- To reflect on and express your own opinion on the morality of war and whether Christians can be involved

Starter

Recap on the last lesson by giving the pupils three minutes to make a list of all the ways The Salvation Army supported soldiers during World War One. After the three minutes are up ask for some feedback. Go over any aspects that have been missed as shown on the PowerPoint presentation.

Explain that The Salvation Army played a big part in supporting those suffering and bringing friendship and joy to those who were in the middle of serving in the war.

Give all the pupils their opinion graph. Explain that all you want them to do is draw an X on the first line depending on what their opinion is on the statement 'A Christian should never be involved in wars' at the start of the lesson.



Phase 1

'A Christian should never be involved in wars'

Now ask the pupils to spend two minutes discussing their reaction to this statement with their partner. They should explain why they agree, disagree or are unsure and why. After the two minutes ask for some initial feedback.

If not covered already, ask the pupils to think of three reasons someone would agree with this statement and three reasons someone would disagree with this statement.

Now hand out the Bible passage card sort. Ask pupils to sort the passages into two different piles: passages that could justify Christians being involved in war and passages that suggest Christians should not be involved in war. When pupils have completed this, ask for some feedback and go over the passages with the pupils.

Review Progress

Again ask the pupils to take their opinion graph and to plot on the second line what they think at this point in the lesson. Explain that it doesn't matter if their opinion is the same as it was on the last time or if it has changed.

Ask pupils to complete one of the sentences below depending on what their opinion is after the discussion so far:

I think all Christians should never be involved in wars because....

I think Christians can be involved in wars in some cases because....

I think Christians can be involved in wars because....

Phase 2

In pairs give the pupils the international positional statement as well as Bramwell Booth's letter regarding the war from August 1914. Then ask the pupils to read through both and answer the following questions:

What does The Salvation Army teach its members about involvement in war today?

Do you agree with its stance? Why? Why not?

What are the key things Bramwell Booth said about the potential war in 1914?

What sort of emotions do you think come across in Bramwell's letter?

When pupils have had an opportunity to read through the texts and answer the questions, ask for some feedback.

Ask the pupils to think of the reasons that The Salvation Army did and still does support soldiers. Give pupils three minutes to write down any reasons they can think of and then ask for some feedback. Go over the suggestions covering anything that has been missed.

Plenary

Finally ask students to draw an X on the final line of their graph depending on what they think now.

Ask pupils to share any changes in opinion or the reasons that their opinion has not changed throughout the lesson.

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