



ISSUES

Exploring where The Salvation Army stands on moral and social issues

environment

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/uki/masic

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A lesson for 14- to 16-year-olds

In this lesson students will explore some of the causes and consequences of damage to the environment. They will also explore what The Salvation Army believes about humanity's responsibility to care for the environment as well as investigating the biblical teachings that support their point of view.

Lesson Outcomes

- To understand and be able to explain some ways humans are damaging the environment
- To explore what The Salvation Army believes about why humans should care for the environment
- To reflect on what the Bible says about the environment and explain their own opinion on caring for the environment

Resources

- Environment PowerPoint presentation
- Environment positional statement
- Environment card sort
- Bible teaching cards

Curriculum Links

England and Northern Ireland

AQA Religious Studies B

3.2 Unit 2 - Religion and Planet Earth

- religious beliefs about the origins of life
- religious beliefs about care and responsibility for the planet - stewardship
- problems caused by pollution, such as acid rain, oil spills, toxic chemicals and pesticides

Ireland

- the expressions of faith - way of life as an expression of religious faith
- the moral challenge - exploring the connections between action and consequence, rights and responsibilities

Scotland

- develop skills to describe and express views about contemporary moral questions and responses
- develop straightforward knowledge and understanding of contemporary moral questions and religious and non-religious responses

Wales

Our World - Religious teaching about:

- creation stories
- responsibilities
- place and purpose of humankind in the world
- how religious believers care for the world and their environment



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Starter

Show the pupils the quote on the first slide as they enter. Ask pupils to discuss the quote with the person next to them, deciding if they agree or disagree with it and why. When all the students have had a chance to discuss it, ask pupils to stand on one side of the classroom if they agree and another if they disagree and somewhere in the middle if they are unsure. Pick out a few students to feed back.

Go over the lesson outcomes with the pupils, explaining the theme of today's lesson.

Phase 1

Hand out the environment cards to the pupils in pairs. Ask them to try and match up the cause of environmental damage with the consequence of the damage. When all the pupils have done this, ask for some feedback and go over the answers with the pupils.

Give the pupils the environment positional statement (depending on previous learning you may need to explain that The Salvation Army is a protestant Christian denomination). Read through the statement once with the class and then ask them to highlight the causes of damage to the environment with one colour and highlight what The Salvation Army believes humans should do with another colour.

Review progress

Ask pupils to name one thing that causes damage to the environment and how, and to name one thing The Salvation Army believes about the environment. Pick out a few pupils to feed back.

Phase 2

In groups of five ask pupils to number themselves 1 to 5 (or number the pupils yourself, if easier).

Then ask the number ones to form a new group, the number twos another group etc. With the five new groups give the pupils in each group one of the Bible teaching cards, a sheet of A3 paper and some felt-tip pens. Tell the students to read through the Bible verse and then discuss the question as shown on slide 6. Ask the groups to write down any ideas they have on the sheet of A3 paper. Explain to the pupils that they will be returning to their original groups to share the Bible teaching they were looking at and what they think the answer to the question is.

When the pupils have moved back to their original groups ask them to go around the table sharing their passage and thoughts one by one. You may want to look at each passage and get some feedback from the pupils.



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Tell the groups that they have three minutes to write down as many ways people can help care for the environment in their day-to-day lives as they can think of. When the three minutes is up, ask for some feedback - going over the main ways that Christians can live out their beliefs about stewardship.

Finish by explaining that one of the ways The Salvation Army Trading Company tries to help the environment is by encouraging people to recycle textiles. It does this through its scheme for schools - 'Recycle with Michael'. Go over the PowerPoint presentation slide with pupils.

Plenary

Show the pupils the images on the last slides. Ask the pupils to decide what the link is with something that has been covered in the lesson. Give pupils an opportunity to discuss this with their partner and then ask for feedback for each image.