

Catherine Booth and Women in Ministry

A lesson for 16- to 18-year-olds



Lesson Aims

To understand why Catherine Booth believed the Bible supported women preaching and leading in Christian ministry.

To reflect on and express your own view on women in Christian ministry, having explored the arguments of Catherine Booth.

Resources

- PowerPoint presentation
- Card sort
- Fact file

Curriculum links

Feminist Theological Ethics

- Role of women as ministers: responses of feminist theology and non-feminist theology to the role of women as Christian leaders.
- Key ideas in feminist theology: understandings of God, Jesus, and of the roles and status of women and men.

Starter

Show the quote on the PowerPoint presentation and ask students to reflect on what it might mean and to discuss their ideas with the person next to them. When all pupils have had a chance to share ideas, ask for some feedback.

Phase 1

Ask the pupils if any of them know anything about Catherine Booth. If they don't, then you can introduce the lesson outcomes and move on to the fact file activity below. If they do, lead the group in a short discussion from what they know, correcting any misconceptions.

Read through the fact file text about Catherine Booth together. Ask pupils to highlight the three most important things they feel people should know about Catherine Booth from what they have just read. Ask for feedback.

Catherine Booth and Women in Ministry



Tell the pupils that we are going to look at how Catherine Booth used the Bible to defend the right for women to preach and lead in Christian ministry. Explain that her arguments are outlined in her pamphlet *Woman's Right to Preach the Gospel*. Give the pupils the cards and explain that they need to read the Bible passages and the arguments and work out which argument goes with which Bible passage. When the students have finished matching up the cards, go through asking for feedback.

Do the pupils agree or disagree with the arguments? Are there any problems they can see? Give the students a few minutes to discuss these questions in groups and then ask for any feedback.

Review

Ask the pupils to name three reasons Catherine Booth believed women should be allowed to preach.

Phase 2

Ask the pupils to answer the exam-style question on the presentation, explaining their own point of view and using Bible texts to support them.

When the students have completed this, ask for pupils to share some of their thoughts and arguments.

Plenary

Do you agree with Catherine Booth?

Ask students who agree with her to stand at one end of the room, those that disagree at the other end, and anyone who is unsure to stand somewhere in between. When pupils have chosen where they stand, pick out pupils to explain why they are stood where they are.