

Teachers' notes:

Faith and legalised violence - lesson 1

You will need

- 'The Golden Rule' powerpoint presentation.

Available for free on our website, www.childrenareunbeatable.org.uk/children

You might also use:

- Paper, felt tips, coloured pencils, other art materials.

How to run the activities

Use 'The Golden Rule' powerpoint presentation.

Slides 1 and 2 introduce the idea of the Golden Rule.

Slide 3 asks the class to briefly discuss the Golden Rule, whether they think it is good and whether they use it. This is a warm-up discussion before the main part of the lesson.

Slide 4 gives some different ways that the Golden Rule is worded in various belief systems.

Click once to bring up the quotations. Ask the class to choose which one they prefer, and why.

Click again to bring up the names of the belief systems the quotations are taken from.

This leads to the main discussion of the lesson - see below.

Slide 5 (optional) asks students to write and decorate their own version of the Golden Rule. These could be put up on a wall in the classroom, or used at the beginning of lesson 2 to remind students of the Golden Rule.

Information and points to discuss

• Did students who follow one of the belief systems choose their belief system's way of wording the Golden Rule? If not, does it matter? How similar and how different are the ways of saying the Golden Rule?

• "Don't do things to others you wouldn't want to have done to you" words the rule in a negative way, while "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you" words it in a positive way. Does this make a difference to the meaning of the rule? Are your school rules worded in a positive or a negative way? Which way do students prefer?

NOTE: The language in some of the quotations has been altered to make it more child-friendly. Here are the original quotations:

"A state that is not pleasing to me, how could I inflict that upon another?" Buddhism (Samyutta Nikaya).

"Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you." Christianity (Matthew 7:12).

"One should not behave towards others in a way which is disagreeable to oneself. This is the essence of morality." Hinduism (Mahabharata, Anusasana Parva 113.8).

"Don't do things you wouldn't want to have done to you." Humanism (British Humanist Society).

"None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself." Islam (No. 13 of Imam Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadiths).

"...love your neighbour as yourself." Judaism (Leviticus 19:18).

"No one is my enemy, none a stranger and everyone is my friend." Sikhism (Guru Arjan Dev : AG 1299).

About us

These lesson plans have been developed by the Children are Unbeatable! Alliance and the Churches' Network for Non-violence (CNNV), in conjunction with the CNNV 2009-10 roadshow: **Growing up without violence – Ending legalised violence against children**. The roadshow aims to reflect landmark events in children's rights in 2009 and to further the movement to end all forms of violence against children including corporal punishment.

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