

Teachers' notes:

Faith and legalised violence - lesson 2

You will need

- 'The Golden Rule' story worksheet - one for each student or group of students.

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

Begin by reminding students of the Golden Rule, perhaps using their own decorated versions of it, made in Lesson 1.

Then hand out 'The Golden Rule - Stories' worksheet. Students could work on this independently or in groups. Ask them to read the stories and think about the characters' feelings and how they could have behaved differently using the Golden Rule. Then discuss their ideas as a class.

In 2009-10, a special exhibition called 'Growing up without violence - Ending legalised violence against children' will be travelling around the country, displaying in lots of places.

If this lesson is being held before March 2010, students may be able to contribute to the exhibition, by writing or drawing their answer to this question:

What does the Golden Rule say about how adults and children should treat each other?

We may not be able to include all contributions in the exhibition, but will try to include as many as possible. Please contact us to discuss this further, or to send in contributions.

Information and points to discuss

- Both adults and children can use the Golden Rule. But younger children may not always be able to use it as well as older children or adults.
- Churches' Network for Non-Violence and the Children are Unbeatable! Alliance think that the Golden Rule means that adults should not hit children. Adults should treat children as they would like to be treated - with respect, and without violence. What are some ways that adults can use the Golden Rule to look after children?
- When adults hit children, it is often called 'smacking'. Why do you think that is? Why is the word 'smacking' usually only used to describe hitting children, not hitting adults?
- In 2006, the Coventry Charter for Children and Non-Violence was created at a special service in Coventry Cathedral. Lots of different religious groups have signed it. One of the things it says is: "All children are entitled to grow up in family and all other settings free from corporal punishment and all other forms of violence and humiliating treatment."
- At the 2006 World Conference of Religions for Peace in Kyoto, Japan, more than 800 faith leaders made "a religious commitment to combat violence against children."

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.

For more information, please contact Elinor Milne, Children's Campaign Co-ordinator:
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