



Using the Resource in School

The Big Justice Story Sack was produced for work with children in a church context. However, it can easily be adapted to work well in school, both as a curriculum resource in RE and as an assembly resource.

Owning and Grounding

The most important adaptation is the use of language. Where beliefs and practices are mentioned make it clear who they belong to. This means that 'We all believe that...' or 'When we pray...', becomes, 'Christians believe that...', and 'When Christians pray...'. This owning and grounding is important as it protects the pupils from any sense of coercion. It also enables them to explore how beliefs and practices of Christians are linked. On the following pages there is suggested wording that you might like to use for each session.

Activities

Most of the activities for each session are appropriate for a school setting but where they assume a faith we have suggested an alternative on this sheet.

All the sessions finish with the same text from the Bible and then a prayer. In RE the text can be said at the end of each session as the final element to remind pupils that this an important text for Christians seeking to make the world a fairer place for everyone. It is the strand that links the Big Justice Story Sack together. In assembly, the text could also be read out and depending on your usual practice, pupils could be invited to say the prayer together or there could be a time of silence in which pupils can think about how they can show love to others. Likewise, the placing of the cross and the candle on the story mat can be used in collective worship but be left out in RE.

Session 1: Beginnings and Creation

Page 1

Introduction: This session covers what Christians believe about the time before time began. They believe God created a good and perfect world...

Session outline 2: Today we are going to read a story from the Bible that is important to Christians. It is found at the very beginning of the Bible and tells the story about the time before time and space existed!

Page 2

Christians believe that at the beginning of time....

However, Christians believe we can all/they can still treasure the gift of God's good creation...

Page 3

Activity suggestions: Find a non-confessional song to replace 'oh, oh, oh, how good is the Lord' or miss this activity out.

Actions this week: Ask the pupils to write to their Head Teacher or Governors. However, it might still be appropriate to write to the church leader.

Session 2: Moses the Reluctant Campaigner

Front Cover: This session explores some key Christian beliefs that God uses people to bring good news and freedom.'

Page 1

Introduction: This session covers some key Christian beliefs: that God uses people to bring good news and freedom. Christians believe God is the same...'

Session outline 2: In the book of Exodus Christians begin to learn how God rescued his followers...

Session outline 3: A good version to read from is found in Lion Storyteller Bible, Bob Hartman, 'The Burning Bush'.

Session 3: God Rules

Page 1

Introduction: This session covers the concept of laws and rules. Do Christians have to live differently?

Page 3

Action this week: Stick the picture in your classroom/exercise book...



Session 4: Get Lost

(apologies for using 'different to' when it should be 'different from'!)

Page 1

Session outline 3: Introduce this Bible passage as a help for Christians to understand what God is like. Change 'The Lord does not like' to 'God does not like'.

Page 2

Share postcard 2: Why do Christians believe that God cares so much....?

Share postcard 3: It's a rule for Christians that they should help people who are in need.

Session 5: Esther

Front Cover: This session covers how Christians believe that God uses their gifts...

Page 3

Share the performance of the Esther story in assembly.

Find an alternative song to History Maker by Delirious such as Fischy Music's 'Make a Difference'.

Session 6: God's Character

Front Cover: This session covers what Christians believe God's character is like and how they express their emotions to God.

Page 1

Session outline 4: I wonder, what does this passage say about what Christians believe God is like?

How do you think this passage will make a Christian feel? They believe every person is precious...

Page 2

Last paragraph: Wherever a person is, Christians believe that God knows them and loves them...

Page 3

Activity suggestions: Christian Aid's assembly 'Toilet Troubles' provides useful information [Water and sanitation assemblies - Christian Aid](#)

Action this week: Suggest pupils collect pennies at home or have a central collection jar in your class/school.

Session 7: Living a Good Life

Front Cover: This session looks at how Christians try to live a life that makes God happy – by being kind, seeking justice...



Page 1

Introduction: This session covers the message of the prophet Amos and how Christians try to live a life that makes God happy – by being kind, seeking justice...

Page 2

I wonder, in what ways Christians believe we need to look after people living in poverty and not be selfish today?

This story is a good reminder for Christians that they must remember in everything that they do to live a life that makes God happy...

Session 8: Incarnation

Page 1

Introduction: This session covers the Christmas story, particularly how Christians believe God humbled himself to become a vulnerable baby. How might this change a Christian's idea about God and his relationship with them? How do you think Christians need to do to look after their relationship with God?

Session outline 2: Today we'll be talking about how Christians believe God came to visit us on Earth.

Session outline 4: Christians believe Jesus was a very special baby because he was God!..... This shows Christians that even though God is powerful, he still wants to be part of people's lives,...

Page 2

This shows Christians that God puts people at the centre of his plans...

Christian Aid story (last sentence): Christians believe that through their words and actions they can show God's love for the world.

Page 3

Activity suggestions: If using eggs is too daunting then consider asking pupils to sow seeds (sweet peas, cress, sunflower) and nurture them until they can be planted on.

Action this week: Find someone in school who is younger than you (someone in EYFS or KS 1).

Session 9: Storytime Kingdom

Front Cover: This session covers how Jesus' stories help Christians to see what God wants his kingdom to be like.

Page 2

Christians believe that we need to open our minds and hearts to change the way... They believe that by listening to parables, we can start thinking and feeling... They believe that Jesus told stories to help the people who were listening to change their lives, and act the way that God wants them to act.



Session 10: Miracles

Page 1

Introduction: This session covers some of the miracles performed by Jesus as recorded in the Bible. It looks at the people he chose to help despite their status in society, and how Christians believe they should try to follow his example today.

Page 3

Activity suggestions: After contemplating who you are, and who each class member is, note that Christians believe all people are unique and valuable.

Explore the following passages asking pupils to identify what Christians believe God thinks of them.

What do you think Christians might feel when they are described in this way? Christians believe these statements are true for everyone and that everyone is valuable in the eyes of God.

Craft activity: Create a get well card/thinking of you card for someone you know in school.

Action this week: Give your card to that person.

Session 11: Jesus Challenges Authority

Page 1

Session outline 3: Christians believed that Jesus showed people what God is like... Christians believe that part of God's character is justice...

Page 2

Activity suggestions: Write a prayer that a Christian might say for people who are not listened to...

Action this week: Ask if there are any jobs to help around the school to keep things clean and tidy. As you clean, use the time to reflect on/pray about something that is unfair...

Session 12: A New Commandment

Front Cover: This session covers Jesus' new commandments, how Jesus taught his followers about God's love and about his kingdom, and how as members of God's kingdom, they're called to show God's love and hospitality to all people.

Page 1

Session outline 2: Today we'll be talking about Jesus' new commandment: the most important rule that Christians try to follow.



Page 2

Session outline 4: The big Bible story gives Christians many examples of how God chooses ordinary people to make a difference in the world – how ordinary people can share God’s love and welcome in the world.

Listen to the prayer of Saint Theresa of Avila and think about what the message is for Christians ‘Christ has no ...’

Page 3

Activity suggestions: ...So, if Christians are followers of Jesus, other people should be able to recognise that by looking at how they live their lives, and by their attitude towards other people.

Make a collage with the words of St Theresa’s prayer in the centre, and with pictures depicting how Christians can live out that prayer in their day-to-day lives.

Make welcome cards for a new person (adult or pupil) to school...

Listen to the song (find an alternative – Make a Difference by Fischy Music would work here)

Session 13: Salvation and Resurrection

Front Cover: This session covers what Christians believe about Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Page 1

Introduction: This session covers Jesus’s death and resurrection and that Christians believe that through this he rescued humanity. It encourages them to stand up...

Session outline 2: Today we’ll be talking about how Christians believe Jesus died and rose again to save them.

Session outline 3 (last paragraph): But the story doesn’t end there – Christians believe that two days later he was resurrected.

Page 2

...Christians see it as their duty to bring hope and life to people facing the uncertainty, pain and loss of a disaster today in our world...

Page 3

The ‘Strength’ card game and Chatterbox origami can both be found on our [website...](#)

Action this week: You might decide to miss this out or ask for a general donation from across the school either for Christian Aid or items towards your local foodbank.



Session 14: The Early Church

Page 1

Session outline 3: The Bible says that after Jesus' resurrection...

Page 2

Session outline 5: What do Christians believe God thinks about people living in poverty? What do you think Christians can learn from this passage?

Page 3

Activity suggestions: You might want to have a packet of sultanas or grapes to share as an alternative to sweets!

In the sticky note activity you could replace the prayers with a time of silence in which pupils think about how they could show care and kindness to that person .

Action this week: Pupils can think about how their school may be able to help refugees feel welcome.

Session 15: Endings and New Beginnings

Page 1

Introduction: This session covers the kingdom of heaven as described in the book of Revelation. In what ways do Christians believe they can help to build God's kingdom on Earth?

Session outline 2: Today we'll be talking about the future and what Christians believe God wants his new kingdom to be like.

Session outline 3: The author of Revelation gives Christians a vision of what's to come when... Christians see it as their privilege to start building that city here on Earth today.

Page 2

Over the past few weeks, we've been looking at the way Christians believe God has worked, and wants them to work, so that... Christians believe that, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and instructed by Jesus' teaching, they can play their part... (this last wording can also be used if reading from the postcard that goes with this session).

Christian Aid story: The first two paragraphs need changing so that the actions and beliefs are those of Christians e.g. replace 'we' with 'they'

Page 3

Activity suggestion: Ask pupils to draw pictures or make collages to show the Earth as they would like it to be, or as Christians believe God wishes it to be.

Action this week: Research a current Christian Aid appeal and think of some ideas that of how you could help e.g. writing to your MP about your concerns, or raising some money to support the work of Christian Aid.

