



Activity RE with Soul Theme Day– Love your Neighbour Values in Action

Outline

Creating a collaborative 'gift' or designing a fundraising campaign for our local church or overseas neighbours ([Companion Link](#))

RE with Soul encourages Primary Schools to jointly plan an RE theme day with their local church to enable pupils to engage in an extended reflection with an individual, local and global 'values in action' focus. This enables them to consolidate their understanding of concepts, consider what difference learning about 'Water of Life and Baptism', makes to believers and to themselves. Through creating a 'gift' or sharing in a project between their local church and overseas neighbour they experience what it is like to 'love your neighbour' in action.

This part of the unit can be undertaken as a cross-curricular project linked to Art or DT teaching and learning. The applied learning via the extended creative reflection involving creating gifts for our local or global neighbours, allows for useful assessment opportunities both of theological understanding and personal reflection. This 'gift-giving' opportunity can be initiated through the school's communication with the local church and their overseas church community. ([Companion Link](#))

Understanding Christianity Links

Incarnation/God Lower Key Stage 2	Unit 2A.3	<i>What is Trinity?</i>	<i>Water of Life Activities 3 and 4</i>
Kingdom of God Lower Key Stage 2	Unit 2A.6	<i>When Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost?</i>	<i>Water of Life Activities 4 and 5</i>

These activities support schools on meeting SIAMS criteria for example 'Courageous Advocacy' and complements the Christian Aid, [Global Neighbours Accreditation Scheme](#).

Examples of pupil-led values in action

'Gifts' created as part of an extended reflection include translating their ideas and learning into textiles designs for the Companion Link community, such as an altar cloth, designs for stained glass windows or a fundraising project. See examples below:

- banners on a theme - [Love your Neighbour Gifts of the Spirit Banner](#)
- designs for windows [Water of Life'](#)
- altar cloths
- priests vestments
- priests stole
- resources for children overseas
- fundraising campaign

Possible starting points for artwork

- Bible stories - The Good Samaritan - see examples in [Chartres Cathedral stained glass](#). Creation Story
- Themes: Spiritual Gifts, Fruit of the Spirit (Galations 5), Tree of Life
- **Creative process**

Creative process

- Using the church space and involving parents and church members where possible
- Responding to a brief: introducing the brief e.g. for creating artwork or designing a fundraising campaign
- Team work: working in groups with a group leader appointed who oversees team work throughout the creative process- (considering your neighbour in team work - see related guidelines)
- Research and visualising concepts and themes: researching and visualising ideas using agreed starting points
- Presentation skills development: presenting initial group ideas to the class - inviting feedback on how concepts, ideas and learning about baptism have been communicated
- Reflection on learning: reflecting on and refining ideas in preparation for translation into chosen medium
- Translating ideas: translating ideas into agreed outcome in partnership with parents, staff, church members

Possible outcomes

- banners on a theme [Click here](#) to see Love your neighbour gallery
- designs for windows [Click here](#) to see Water of Life window designs
- altar cloths
- priests vestments
- priests stole
- resources for children overseas
- fundraising campaign

Learning Objectives

- To reflect upon their own interpretations of Loving God and loving your neighbour
- To identify what we can learn from the commandment to love our neighbours
- To consider ways of loving our 'neighbours' in terms of water-related issues and the water of Life theme
- To communicate Christian belief and values through creative process for an artwork for the local church or community overseas

Key Questions

- *What could we do to help our local church 'love their neighbours' on the theme of 'water of life'?*
- *What could I create for my overseas neighbour, for example in Mozambique?*
- *How do Christian believers communicate their faith through the arts?*
- *How can the arts be used as a tool to communicate Christian beliefs and values?*

Starter

What difference do these overseas partnerships make to people involved in UK churches and schools?

Consider how overseas partnerships and project work, is evidence for believers being motivated to love their neighbour as themselves, inspired by Jesus's example and enabled by the Holy Spirit

In what ways has investigating the ways that Christian believers follow the commandment to love their neighbours impacted us individually, as a class, as a school community?

Write a class Acrostic poem using the letters from 'Water of Life' to enable pupils to process their thoughts and communicate their response. Pupils could work in pairs to compose a line for the class poem.

Main activity

Values in action: individually, locally and globally

How can we express our understanding of the importance of water physically and spiritually?

Individually (suggested ideas)

Write a letter to an overseas neighbour. Review what the pupils have learned so far and ask them to write a letter to their overseas neighbours to describe their learning journey and explain their understanding of the significance of water physically and spiritually from investigating Baptism in the UK and overseas, for example how they have been challenged to use water more wisely, and what they understand about the idea of baptism by water and the Holy spirit.

Write a prayer on the theme of water of life. Pupils could look again at an example of a prayer from the Church of England baptismal service book and write their own prayer about Baptism from the viewpoint of a believer in UK or overseas

Lead a school assembly on 'Water of life' or lead/contribute to a school assembly on the theme of Water of Life... Pupils could add their own prayers on the theme of 'water of life' (physical or spiritual) to the class display

Locally or Globally (Suggested ideas)

How can we show love to our local church, community or overseas neighbours in a practical way, (for example in Mozambique) on the theme of 'water of life'?

What could our class create as a gift or design as a fundraiser, for our local or overseas (Mozambican) neighbour?

Generating artwork or designing a fundraising campaign

Project guidelines and outline of the creative process for

1. Find out through the local church about their priorities and links with overseas partnerships, for example [ALMA](#). Ask what priorities they have regarding supporting the church and community overseas, for example via ALMA in Mozambique there might be a need for water pumps, equipment, decoration for the church
2. Discuss with pupils ideas they might have for creating gifts for the overseas community (Mozambique) on the water of life in response to priorities discussed with the local church.
3. Communication with your local church about the priorities of the overseas community should inform the decision making for the extended reflection and focus for the creative process.

Themes

Water of Life (physical and spiritual), the sacrament of Baptism and possible links with existing works of art in the local church.

Possible starting points for artwork

- Bible stories from Activity 1 on the significance of water in the Bible e.g. Creation, Noah, Moses, Jesus and the women at the well, the miraculous catch of fish and the Baptism of Jesus
- The Baptism of Jesus based on Piero della Francesca's painting '[The Baptism of Christ](#)' in the National Gallery, London
- Tree of life with 'Fruits of the Spirit' and pupils examples of loving others using these gifts - Galatians 5
- Water of life - comparing physical and spiritual significance of water in Christianity

Plenary

What did we enjoy about creating a gift for our neighbours either locally or overseas?

How did it help us understand the impact of loving your neighbour as yourself, on our neighbours and ourselves?

Pupils should explain how the agreed project idea demonstrates 'Loving your neighbour'

Learning outcomes

- I can respond thoughtfully to the Christian idea Baptism and the symbolic use of water

- I can use creative process to communicate about the beliefs of Christian believers and my own beliefs.
- I can work in a team to create artwork, or a campaign for a fundraiser to show love to my neighbour
- I can reflect on my learning about Water of Life and Baptism in the UK and Mozambique

Resources and Points to note

Working with professional Christian artists, such as a stained glass artist e.g. [Emma Blount](#) offers demonstrations and workshops in partnership with RE with Soul as part of 'extended 'values in action' reflection.

See Emma Blount stained glass artist clip – feedback on RE with Soul

Assessment opportunities

The applied learning via the theme day – ('creating gifts for our local or global neighbours') allows for useful assessment opportunities both of theological understanding and personal reflection.

