

Wintershall The Life of Christ - cross-curricular values learning through drama and assembly preparation

This Values Learning programme offers a series of creative values-themed lessons and assembly outlines inspired by biblical scenes and characters from Wintershall's 'The Life of Christ alongside

Why Wintershall's The Life of Christ and values learning?

The Life of Christ production

'The Life of Christ' brings the Gospels alive. Set in the grounds of Wintershall Estate in Surrey, it's an annual open-air community drama presenting the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. www.wintershall-estate.com Pilgrimage through the day long performance in the grounds of Wintershall estate, bombarding your senses with the richness of the costumes and beautifully made props, as well as the stunning natural landscape as the stage set. It's almost as though you are back in time over two thousand years ago witnessing in real time Jesus and the people that encountered him in their daily lives during his life and ministry on earth, are there in front of you inviting you to share their story. This is theatre at its best as well as communicating a story about a person that changed history and lives.

Cast and crew – shared values

The people, from all walks of life, who participate in Wintershall's dramas such as The Life of Christ give their time for nothing, drawn for a whole variety of reasons, some out of curiosity about Jesus and his story, others for their Christian beliefs or because someone suggested it was a fun thing to be part of! Participating in the cast or crew, people become part of a community where they discover shared values centred on and arising from the story and the process of dramatising it through rehearsals and performances. Read more...

For many cast and crew members inspired by the love and example of Jesus that they have been exploring and experiencing, they want above all to make this God given love known to everyone and so take part in these outdoor plays retelling as accurately as possible The Life of Christ on earth with his teaching, healing and miracles. Showing incredible patience and perseverance through hours of rehearsals, they want to help the audience to imagine what it was like to have known and followed Jesus when he was living as a man on earth.

Introducing Values Enquiry

The following material has been presented in a framework for class-based values teaching and learning, which follows the structure for class assembly preparation (Greeting, Inspire, Reflect, Respond, Send) making it easy to translate the creative learning journey into a quality values assembly. The different aspects can be explored over a series of values learning lessons or as a Values or RE Pause Day with each learning focus and activity having a reflective outcome that can contribute to the final assembly presentation.

Biblical themes Humility – Jesus washes the disciples' feet John 13:1-15

To think about when humility is needed in life and shown by others. When it's hard to be humble, what is involved in being humble, identifying strategies to grow humility and service, recognising humility as different from other forms of serving people– how Jesus's examples of humility challenged people's attitudes and affirmed people, helping others show humility. Jesus as love itself, total acceptance, treating everyone as equals, self-sacrifice, honouring others

Linked values and qualities Service, empathy, self-sacrifice, respect, acceptance, kindness, caring

Aims and Values Learning Objectives

- To explore and explain the concept of humility including from a Christian perspective using the biblical example of Jesus washing the disciples' feet John 13:1-15

- To identify strategies for showing humility and encouraging others to do the same
- To understand what difference belief in God makes to values learning

Curriculum links PSHCE, RE, SMSC, P4C, Literacy, History

Differentiated learning

Primary KS1 and KS2 – learning to be humble, serving others, humility in relationship with God and others

Secondary KS3 – recognising humility and situations when it is important to show humility, strategies for developing a humble attitude

Historical background

The scene is set in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem, the evening before Jesus was put to death. During the Last Supper he behaved in what to his disciples seemed to be a most bizarre way; he stooped to wash their feet. If you employed a slave, this was a task he performed. Hence the disciples were surprised when Jesus, their teacher, did this. No wonder Peter objected, not realising the significance of what Jesus was doing

Jesus performed these simple, dramatic and memorial actions to demonstrate the chief characteristic of his ministry, humbly serving others. It was also a vivid reminder to his disciples that they should serve one another and by implication this should be so of their relationships with other people.

Please note:

Introducing pupils to the theological basis and historical background to the story as well as comparing versions of the story using different translations of the Christian Bible grows confidence in exploring Christian teaching, beliefs and practices as well as deepens understanding. Please click on the scripture reference under Humility on the menu bar.

Theology

Jesus as the ultimate role model for Christians and others. Jesus showed all these qualities in his life on earth, as part of God's greatest act of love - God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, as a sacrifice for the sins of all humankind, that all might be saved and have eternal life, through faith in Christ as a personal saviour, and the work of the Holy Spirit be enabled to show the same love to others. Jesus was known by his disciples and others that met him while he was on earth, for consistently showing unconditional love

Jesus lived a life of unconditional love towards people— giving every day during his life on earth to teaching people how to love one another, by setting an example for people to follow.

Source material

- 'Film clip of 'Jesus washing the disciples' feet' - from The Life of Christ', Wintershall John 13:1-15
- Actor viewpoint clips reflecting on 'humility and service'
- Enquiry questions to draw out themes
- Wintershall's The Life of Christ Script excerpt Jesus washes the disciples' feet Act 111 scene 9 (The Last Supper)
- Dramatising Bible stories workshop ideas for teacher and pupil use in explaining the biblical examples of the values in action and their impact on people's lives
- Story and drama toolkit - Margaret Cooling (creative ideas for using the Bible in the classroom)
- Scripture – John 13:1-15

INSPIRE Session 1 Concept cracking: What does humility mean?

Teaching point

Ask the question: What does humility mean?

Ask pupils to work in pairs, (with no teacher input) and write down a sentence or two about humility beginning the sentence with 'Humility is...' Explain how Wordle's work (e.g repeated words are largest etc. Create a 'Wordle' reflection using all the outcomes starting with 'Humility is...

Learning activity 1

Pupils work in pairs to discuss what humility is and write down a sentence or two about humility beginning with 'humility is...' Either: whole class together with teacher support create a 'Wordle' reflection using all the outcomes starting with 'Humility is... or work in pairs to create a hand drawn world

Assembly preparation: this wordle can be put into a Powerpoint and used as part of the introduction when pupils explain what the assembly is about and how they have explore humility or photos taken of hand drawn 'Wordle' reflection and input into Powerpoint. Examples of Wordles see <http://www.wordle.net/create>.

Teaching point: Identifying and using enquiry questions to support an enquiry

Exploring the concept of showing humility. What key questions do we need to ask to help us investigate humility– then group questions into a main question to create a shortlist for the values learning enquiry

For example:

- *What are values and how do we experience them in everyday life*
- *What is humility?*
- *When do you show humility in different situations?*
- *What qualities do you need to be humble towards about yourself, towards others and situations?*
- *What is difficult about being humble?*
- *Why is it better to be humble rather than proud?*
- *What difference could faith in God make to showing humility?*
- *What helps you learn to be humble?*

Learning activity 1

Pupils in groups of three thought shower key questions to help them investigate humility – e.g. to do with what the concept is, how we show it, and what the Bible can teach us.

Pupils contribute a list of their key questions to a class list and through discussion agree a shortlist for the values learning enquiry that support an enquiry – see sample questions which are used as a framework for the remaining values learning activities and also for the values assembly

'The Life of Christ' Wintershall values learning powerpoint – humility

EXPLORE Session 2 Identifying scenarios when we might show humility

When do you show humility in different situations? What qualities do you need to be humble? What is difficult about learning to show humility? What does it mean to be proud or boastful?

Teaching point: When do we need to show humility?

Ask the question: *When do you show humility in different situations?*

Discuss different situations in life when humility is needed. Ask pupils to work in pairs to 'thought shower' their own examples, to record on post-it notes.

Give pupils the structure of showing humility:

- about oneself
- to your family -
- to your friends - e.g. not excluding others from games, conversations, spending time, including others in activities, going without, caring and helping others not wanting something in return, think of others before yourself.
- to others
- humility role models

Learning activity 1

Pupils in groups word shower identify examples of humility from their everyday lives and role models and write each idea on a post-it notes:

- *oneself*
- *your family*
- *your friends*
- *Others*

Group share and arrange outcomes under themes as above to help reinforce distinct types of scenarios – requiring different qualities. Children choose images from ordinary life and add these plus their examples of humility scenarios outcomes to the humility Powerpoint

Teaching point: How can we show humility about ourselves and to others in different situations?

Ask the question: *What qualities do you need to show humility?*

Introduce the idea of needing to develop other qualities or aspects of our characters to help develop values for example: trust respect, self-sacrifice, faith, patience

Give pupils in groups of three or four a list of qualities which include those needed for being humble. Encourage discussion about which qualities are needed and why. Draw round a child on a large piece of paper and fill the middle with pupils' ideas about qualities needed on post-its or written in felt-tip pen (inside the outline)

Encourage pupils to think about importance of each part of the body – mouth use of words, eyes and ears to sense or notice, hands to help, feet to choose to act.

Learning activity 2

Pupils think through real life situations requiring showing humility to others, oneself and in different circumstances. They identify qualities that are needed to help you be good at being humble. Write these inside the outline of a child.

Reflection: Write an acrostic using the word 'Humility'. The starting letter for each line to link with a quality image of acrostic poem outcomes can be included in humility Powerpoint or read acrostic in assembly Other examples from the Bible e.g see the following clips: xxx

Teaching point: *What can be difficult about showing humility?*

Ask the question: What is difficult about showing humility? Consider opposites: What does it mean to be proud or arrogant?

Learning activity 3

Humility drama scenarios

Support pupils in identifying the challenges involved in showing humility. For example: encouraging and serving others, being unboastful about your own gifts and talents. The key questions in activity 1 and 2 and pupil responses can be used as a starting point to creating improvised drama scenarios of everyday situations to illustrate their ideas – for example to contrast examples of qualities in showing humility and the challenges. Pupils in pairs identify the challenges involved in showing humility to others, ourselves and in situations.

Make a 'Valuesometer'

Aim: for helping identify how humble we are being

1. Draw two large circles inside one another on an A4 piece of card, leaving a gap of 3cm in between each one.
2. Draw a line across the middle of the two circles out the edges of the card.
3. Write the value around the centre of the inner circle large circle in the semicircle.
4. On the outer drawn circle write qualities and challenges related to the value in two separate colours on one half of the semi-circle and the other.
5. Create a pointer or arrow and attach with a split pin.
6. The finished Valuesometer could be used in circle time or intervention groups to reflect on pupil engagement with values.

ENQUIRE Session 3 Scripture scrutiny *What can the Christian Bible teach about humility?*

Teaching point: *What can the Christian Bible teach about humility?*

Introduce the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet – explain the background.

Read scripture example Jesus washes his disciples' feet. John 13:1-15

Pupils verbally recount the story – all remember certain elements – affirm individual contribution

Ask the question: *How did Jesus show humility in washing the disciples' feet?*

Consider...what qualities Jesus showed in washing the disciples' feet?

- What challenges might Jesus have faced in showing humility in this situation?
- *How would you feel washing someone's dirty feet?*
- *How were the disciples and servants rewarded by Jesus showing humility?*
- *How do you think the disciples and servants felt when Jesus insisted on washing the disciples' feet?*
- *How would you feel if someone washed your dirty feet?*

Learning activity 1

Pupils invited to read the story and recount it as story consequences – taking it in turns to contribute –

Consider: what was forgotten? what was remembered?

Not just one big story – lots of different viewpoints

Resources

- Wintershall promotional video
- Sound bites: James B D on effects of biblical drama, The Life of Christ
- 'Jesus washes the disciples feet – clip
- Refer to the useful background information section of this resource
- Scripture link: John 13:1-15 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+13%3A1-15&version=NIV>

Session 4 Dramatised scripture and values learning

How can dramatized versions of biblical examples of humility help us explore values and the difference that faith makes?

Reflecting on Jesus washes the disciples feet' scene in The Life of Christ, Wintershall www.wintershall-estate.com and www.wintershall-education.com

Teaching point

Introduce Wintershall's productions, for example The Life of Christ as an example of creative communication of the Gospel and drama bringing Christian values to life. Explain that it is drama, so not exactly the same as the Bible story (artistic licence)

Look at the dramatized scene 'Jesus washes his disciples feet' from the Life of Christ.

Access the Wintershall education website and click on values assemblies – click on Jesus heals the leper Act 11 scene 14 from The Life of Christ. This shows Simeon and Anna, receiving Jesus as a new born baby in the temple, and recognising that their life long journey of waiting patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled has been rewarded.

In what ways does the dramatized version help explain the story, message and how Jesus shows humility?

Learning activity 1

Look at the 'People' section of the website find people in the story who showed humility. Research this person more using the scripture references. What were they like as a person based on what was written about them?

Learning activity 2

Show clips of actors talking about humility and service and how being part of The Life of Christ has impacted them.

Discuss the different viewpoints and why people might express these. Pupils consider their viewpoints

Learning activity 3

Pupils write a reflection from the viewpoint of Jesus, one of the disciples, Mary or a servant about humility

Plenary

Ask the questions:

What new ideas have you learnt about humility?

Why might it sometimes be easier to help another person than to allow someone to help us?

In what ways can we serve other people?

Pupils find out about Wintershall's 'The Life of Christ' as an example of creative communication of the Gospel using drama to bring the story and Christian values to life.

Pupils watch the clip of 'Jesus healing the leper' and consider how far the drama helps them make sense of the story.

Values reflection - Pupils identify qualities linked to showing humility and what evidence they found while watching the clip that could be useful in their drama

RESPOND Session 4 Values Learning through dramatising Bible stories and writing scripts

Teaching Point

Explain to pupils that the scenes from the Life of Christ were part of a community drama, written by Peter Hutley, who had never written a script before until he wrote The Nativity.

Show pupils the extract again from The Life of Christ – Jesus washes the disciples’ feet Act 111 scene 9 and compare this with the Bible Story

Explain that they are going to role play the story.

Learning activity 1

Pupils watch the dramatized version of the bible story and work in groups of six to role play the story to help them understand the story line, using the Bible to help them add stage directions and think about character development.

The script for the assembly drama is best written after the drama workshop in Lesson 4 Pupils

Resources

Refer to Drama workshop section of the website for:

- fully worked drama teaching and learning guidelines to help you develop a drama from scripture for an assembly, based on ‘Jesus washing his disciples’ feet John 13: 1-15
- James Burke Dunsmores’ (Actor who plays Jesus) drama workshop ideas
- excerpts Margaret Cooling’s Story drama toolkit and other drama ideas

SEND Songs

Song — choose songs that illustrate the value theme or qualities needed e.g humility, serving others for example ‘ Make me a channel of your Peace’ Pupils learn or write songs to share in Assembly

In Literacy – write new version of a favourite song on the values theme inspired by the story using familiar melody (Ruth Buckley’s values themed rhyming verse material as starting point)

Prayer

Look at the prayers that have been suggested as guidelines only on the patience theme. Pupils individually or in pairs write their own prayers and choose one to use in the assembly.

Pupils write prayers on the values theme inspired by the story and its message – following structure might be useful:
Thank you, sorry, please

Lord Jesus, thank you for the example you showed us of humility and service through washing your disciples’ feet which meant putting yourself in the place of a servant

We are so grateful to because you went so much further than this by laying down your whole life for every person through your death on the cross, paying the price of sin for all people.

When we put our faith and trust in you as our Saviour you offer us the Holy Spirit to help us follow Jesus’s example in being humble and serving others.

Amen