

18.1 Is honesty always right?

Based on Episode 18: Prince for a Day

Learning objectives:

- To know that Christians believe that God can be at work in every situation
- To explore the moral question of honesty

RE Links:

England:

- 1f) Describe and begin to understand religious and other responses to ultimate and ethical questions
- 2d) Reflect on ideas of right and wrong and their own and others' responses to them

Isle of Man:

- 3F) What is faith and what difference does it make?
What does faith mean to you? (QCA – 3E)

Northern Ireland:

The Christian Church: Beginning and Growth

Scotland:

Christianity: Development of beliefs and values: RME 2-09c
Catholic schools: Christianity: Reign of God: RERC 2-21a

Wales:

Ask and respond to important religious and moral questions about the world and personal relationships

Stimulus material:

Friends and Heroes DVD Episode 18: Prince for a Day

This lesson is based on the first half of the episode up to 9:12 mins where Isaac says "I mean what do you really know about behaving like the Romans?"

Bible reference for the main story:

Paul and Elymas
Acts 13: 4-12

Other resources required:

Copies of Worksheet 18.1a
Copies of Worksheet 18.1b

Introduction:

What does honesty mean?

Agree a definition – telling the truth.

Ask pupils to complete the Honesty rating sheet – Worksheet 18.1a.

Feedback and discuss the pupil's responses.

Activities:

Explain that Christians believe that God can show his power in any situation. Today's episode includes a Bible story that happened after Jesus had died. One of his followers, Paul, was preaching in Cyprus but there was somebody there who didn't like his teaching.

Ask the pupils to use Worksheet 18.1b to note down what Elymas does to stop the people from listening to Paul. Show Episode 18 up to 9:12 mins where Isaac says "I mean what do you really know about behaving like the Romans?"

Discuss the responses pupils have recorded on Worksheet 18.1b.

- What was Elymas doing?
- Why?
- What sort of a person was he?

Draw out that he was someone who liked to cheat and to trick other people – he was very dishonest.

Despite all this, God was able to use him to show Sergius Paulus how powerful he was.

Explain to the pupils that Paul did not ask God to make Elymas blind so that he could carry on his teaching. Rather, he used the blindness to show Sergius Paulus how amazing God was. Once Sergius Paulus had seen that, he wanted to learn more about Jesus and his teaching.

Reflection / Personal search / Response:

Ask the pupils to reflect on the characters in the story – several of them don't act entirely honestly:

- Why does Isaac pretend to misunderstand all the things the Romans say?
- Do you think he is right to act this way? Why?
- Do you think Macky was right to pretend to be someone else?
- What do you think will happen to him in the next part of the story?

Assessment / reporting:

- Can the pupils explain the difference between honesty and dishonesty?
- Can they give an example of when they should be honest about something?
- Are there times when it is O.K. not to be honest?

Links to other subject areas:

SEAL - Good to be me – thinking about honesty

Name:

Date:

Worksheet 18.1a

How honest are you?

*What would you do in these different situations? How honest would you be?
(For each question circle the letter which shows how you would behave.)*

1. You've forgotten to bring your homework in to school.

What do you tell your teacher?

- a. You haven't had enough time to do it.
- b. You apologise and ask if you can bring it in the next day.
- c. Your younger sister scribbled on it.

2. You've left your new football boots out in the rain and they have got damaged.

What do you say to your parents?

- a. You've lost them.
- b. You own up and tell your parents what has happened.
- c. You lent them to a friend who has not given them back.

3. Playing with balls in the living room is forbidden in your house but whilst your Mum is out in the garden you start to learn how to juggle. Unfortunately, you smash your Mum's favourite ornament. What do you tell your Mum?

- a. You weren't even in the living room
- b. You're very worried but you go outside to your Mum, tell her what's happened and say you're sorry.
- c. You blame the dog – he's always jumping around in the house.

4. You wake up and realise that it's your Dad's birthday and that you've forgotten to get him a card. What do you do?

- a. Tell him that the shops have run out of birthday cards.
- b. apologise for having forgotten to make a card and make one as soon as you can.
- c. Blame your Mum – she should have reminded you.

You answered mostly 'a's:

*You've usually got some excuse that you can make up to get you out of a situation.
Be careful though – lying can get very complicated and you will usually get found out.*

You answered mostly 'b's:

You usually tell the truth even if it means getting into trouble. Well done.

You answered mostly 'c's:

It's never your fault is it? You seem to get out of tricky situations by blaming someone else – is this really the best thing to do?

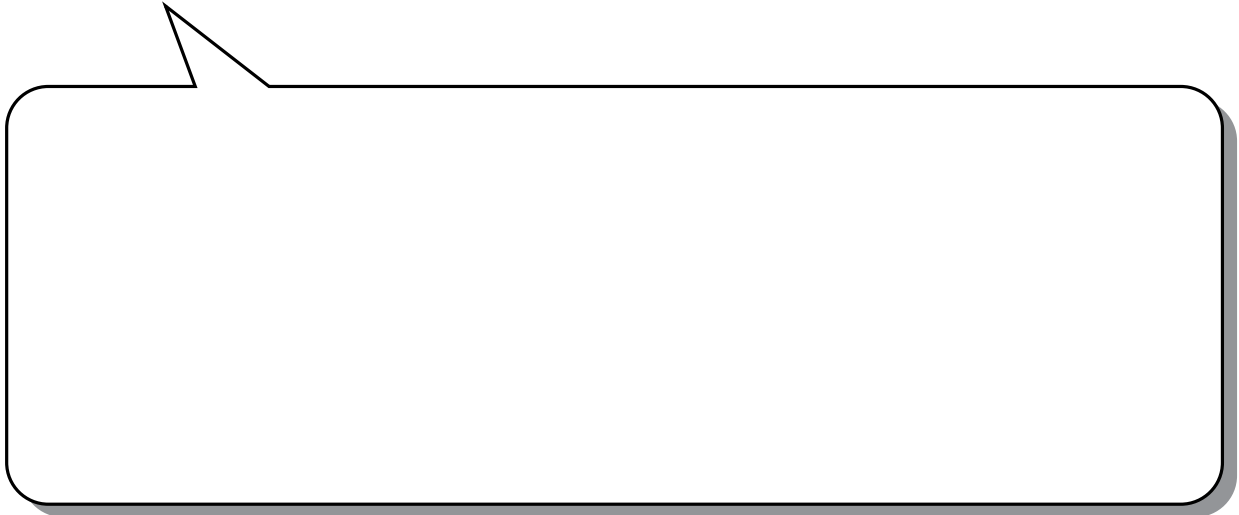


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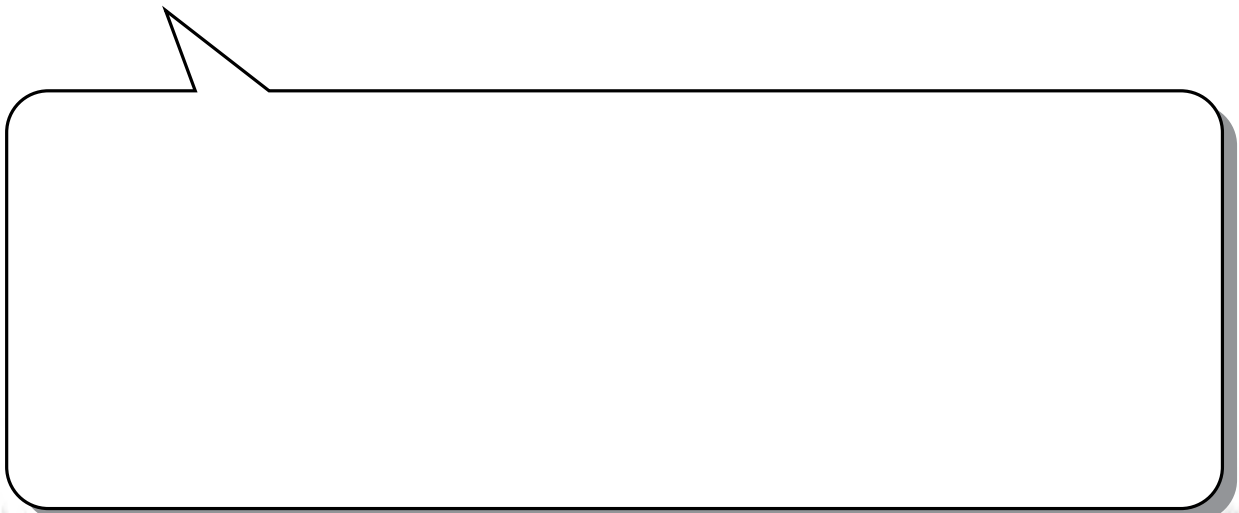
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Worksheet 18.2b

What does Elymas do to stop the people from listening to Paul?



Why do you think he was trying to distract the people?



Paul shows the power of God