

25.1 Helping others when something difficult happens

Based on Episode 25: Toadie on Trial



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Lesson 25.1: Helping others when something difficult happens

Learning objectives:

- To think about how to be a good friend when someone is hurting emotionally

RE Links:

- England:** *Reflect on what it means to belong to a faith community, communicating their own and others' responses*
- Isle of Man:** 4E) *Christian values – What do you worry about?*
5E) *Rules to live by – How should our respect for others affect the way we behave?*
- Northern Ireland:** *Morality: Respect for each other*
- Scotland:** *Development of beliefs and values: RME 2-09d*
Catholic schools: Catholic Christianity:
Hours of God: RERC 1-19a / RERC 2-19a
- Wales:** *The importance that religion places on personal relationships and concern for others*

Stimulus material:

Friends and Heroes DVD Episode 25: *Toadie on Trial. This lesson is based on the first half of the episode as far as 17:16 mins when Portia has told the children that their father has died.*

Bible reference for the main story:

Paul's disappearance
Acts 28:15-24, 30-31

Other resources required:

Copies of Worksheet 25.1a – photocopied onto card and cut up – enough for one per group of 2/3 pupils
Copies of Worksheet 25.1b – one per child

Introduction:

Give groups of 2/3 pupils a set of cards (photocopied from worksheet 25.1a). Ask them to look at the words.

What do they describe? (emotions/feelings)

Are there any words that the pupils don't understand? Make sure that everyone understands the meaning of all the words.

Ask the pupils to sort the cards into groups of their choice and to prepare to explain the reasons for the choices they made in sorting.

Feedback and discuss

- Which feelings have they grouped together? Why? (Pupils should notice that the adjectives refer to happy or sad feelings)
- Are there any feelings that could belong in either group? (thoughtful)

Activities:

Explain that in today's Bible story, Paul disappears. We have to assume that he was killed by the Romans, although nobody really knows what happened to him. Even though he died, he had made a big impact on many peoples' lives. Also, in the programme, one of the characters dies. This means that some of the characters are experiencing some of the feelings that the pupils identified in their card sorting activity.

Show Friends and Heroes Episode 25: Toadie on Trial as far as 17:16 mins when Portia has told Flore and Antonius that their father, Lucius, has died.

- What does Portia do in the story to help the children? (She is kind and caring, she doesn't ask them many questions but tries to reassure them and comfort them. She knows who will be able to help them and promises to take them somewhere where they will be looked after. She doesn't let her own emotions upset the children.)

Ask the pupils for their ideas about what they could do to help someone who is feeling very sad.

Handle this discussion carefully. Emphasise that it is not wrong to feel sad, in fact it is perfectly normal. Emphasise that it is fine to cry and to want to talk about things but equally some people may not want to talk.

Draw out the following ideas:

It is important to listen, to not ask masses of questions, but to be sympathetic and supportive. That might mean putting someone else first for a while. It is also important to understand that people who are feeling sad may say and do things that upset other people because they are hurting themselves.

Explain that Christians will often pray for people who are feeling sad and ask God to comfort them.

Tell the pupils that sometimes people write letters to people who are sad after someone has died. The letters usually offer sympathy and support and may share memories of the person who has died.

Using worksheet 25.1b, ask pupils to write a letter of sympathy to Flore and Antonius.

Reflection / Personal search / Response:

Ask the pupils to spend some time thinking about their friends and family. You might like to say a prayer thanking God for their friends and family and asking Him to help them to be good friends, particularly when others are sad.

Assessment / reporting:

Can pupils think of a way in which they can support someone who is feeling sad?

Links to other subject areas:

SEAL - Relationships – empathising and supporting others when they are hurting emotionally

Literacy - Letter writing

Creative/other - Geography – earthquakes

Name:

Date:

Worksheet 25.1a

Photocopy this page onto card and cut up the sheets - enough for one per group of 2/3 pupils

| | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|
| melancholy | ecstatic | bereft |
| sad | joyful | tearful |
| mournful | lonely | cheerful |
| thoughtful | elated | glad |
| downcast | contented | happy |

Name:

Date:

Worksheet 25.1b

Write a letter of sympathy to Flore and Antonius

Dear Flore and Antonius,

A large area of the page is covered by a piece of paper with a torn, ragged edge. This paper contains a series of horizontal dashed lines for writing a letter.

