

29.1

Superheroes: the only people we should trust?

Based on Episode 29: Friends, Romans and Mystery Men



Learning objectives:

- To think about who we trust
- To consider whether we are worthy of other peoples' trust

RE Links:

England:

2b) Respond to the challenges of commitment in both their own lives and within religious traditions, recognising how commitment to a religion is shown in a variety of ways

Isle of Man:

3C) What do we know about Jesus? What is trust?
Who do we trust? (QCA – 3C)
6Di) Christian values – How do you know you can trust and respect a person?

Northern Ireland:

Morality: respect for each other

Scotland:

Development of beliefs and values: RME 1-09b
Catholic schools: Catholic Christianity:
Reign of God: RERC 2-21a

Wales:

The importance that religion places on personal relationships and concern for others

Stimulus material:

Friends and Heroes DVD Episode 29: Friends, Romans and Mystery Men.

This lesson is based on the first half of the episode as far as 10:50 mins when Macky discovers that the Masked Rebel is Antonius.

Bible reference for the main story:

Jesus calms the storm

Mark 4:35-41

Other resources required:

Copies of Worksheet 29.1a – enough for one between groups of 3 or 4

Copies of Worksheet 29.1b

Paper/mini whiteboards

Introduction:

Ask the pupils to get into groups of three or four and then give each group a copy of Worksheet 29.1a.

Ask the groups to think of five superheroes and write the names of a character and four things about that character in each box on the worksheet. They should then decide what features these superheroes have in common. If there is time the pupils can draw pictures of the superheroes.

Feedback – draw out the obvious similarities to begin with, e.g., may wear capes/be incredibly strong/able to climb buildings, etc.

Continued overleaf...

Lesson 29.1: Superheroes: the only people we should trust?

Then, move towards the idea that the characters are all trustworthy – they are the people we would want to rescue us if we were on a sinking ship or in a building that was on fire.

Explain that in today's episode, the Masked Rebel is once again out and about and that Macky tells a New Testament Bible story in which one of the characters displays powers similar to those of a superhero!

Do the pupils have any idea who the Masked Rebel superhero might be? – ask them to write their prediction secretly on paper or mini whiteboards.

Activities:

Show Friends and Heroes DVD Episode 29: Friends, Romans and Mystery Men as far as 10:50 mins when Macky discovers that the Masked Rebel is Antonius.

So . . . who was right? Ask the pupils if any of them guessed correctly who the Masked Rebel was.

- Why do they think that Antonius would have wanted to help the Friends of Jesus? (his wife was a Friend of Jesus)
- Who was the 'superhero' in the Bible story? (agree that it was Jesus)
- What 'powers' did he show in the Bible story? (he calmed the storm)
- Ask the pupils to imagine what it must have been like to have been there on the lake in the storm.
- What might they have done – would they have been able to trust Jesus? Why? Why not?

Remind the pupils that Jesus was out in the boat with his friends – he was surprised when he woke up and calmed the storm that they hadn't trusted him.

Without commenting on this, ask the pupils to think about their own friends.

- Do they trust them?
- What makes them a trustworthy friend?
- Are they themselves someone who can be trusted?
- Are they a trustworthy friend?

Pupils can then complete Worksheet 29.1b showing examples of things they do that make them a trustworthy friend and things they could do to become even more trustworthy.

Explain that although we know that 'superpowers' like being able to climb walls and fly are just the things of fantasy stories, Christians believe that Jesus does amazing things today. Many Christians will be able to tell stories of how Jesus has helped them in some amazing way, e.g., healing them from an illness. This is part of the reason that Christians are able to put their trust in Jesus.

Reflection / Personal search / Response:

Ask the pupils to spend a moment or two thinking about the people in their lives who they trust, it may or may not be the obvious people such as parents/friends.

(Be sensitive about this – pupils may prefer not to share those people.)

Remind them that Christians believe they can trust Jesus as their friend.

- Do they think that Macky should trust Antonius? Ask them to give reasons to support their answer.

Assessment / reporting:

Can pupils identify someone who is worthy of being trusted?

Do they think that other people trust them as a friend?

Links to other subject areas:

SEAL - Good to be me – thinking about trust and trustworthiness

Getting on and falling out; Relationships

Creative/other - Romans – Gladiator fighting

Name:

Date:

Worksheet 29.1a

Write the name of a different superhero in each star. Then write four things about that superhero in the star. What do the superheroes you have chosen have in common?



Name:

Date:

Worksheet 29.1b

In the boxes below write sentences or draw pictures to show how you are a trustworthy friend and how you could become even more trustworthy. What other things could you say or do to help people to trust you? What changes might you need to make to yourself?



Examples of me being a trustworthy friend

Things I could do to help other people to trust me more