

6 Turning bad things into good

Based on Episode 6: Freedom fighters



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Learning objectives:

- To explore the idea of how God can turn a bad situation into a good one
- To think about whether there are times when our actions resulting from anger can be a good thing
- To analyse Saul's character 'before' and 'after'

RE Links:

England:

- 1a) Describe the key aspects of religions, especially the people, stories and traditions that influence the beliefs and values of others.
- 3j) Inspirational people: figures from whom believers find inspiration.

Isle of Man:

- 3F) What is faith and what difference does it make?
- 5F) How do the beliefs of Christians influence their actions?
- 6Di) Christian values - repentance.

Northern Ireland:

- The Revelation of God: God and the Bible.
- The Christian Church: Beginning and growth
- Morality: Respect for self.

Scotland:

- Sacred writings, stories and key figures.
- Beliefs.
- Moral values and attitudes.

Wales:

- Recognise how religion affects the lives of adherents.
- Consider and respect the viewpoint of others, acknowledging where they are similar to and different from their own.

Stimulus material:

Friends and Heroes DVD episode 6: Freedom fighters

Bible references for the main stories:

Exodus 2:1-15a

Acts 9:1-18

Other resources required:

Copies of Worksheet 6a and 6b

An eraser

Card for 'Sorry Cards'

Introduction:

Ask everybody in the room to stand up. Now sit down, if you made a mistake this afternoon....if you made one this morning in school...if you made it at home this morning...or if you made it yesterday...the day before....any day this week... Keep going until nearly everyone is sat down...then ask those still standing – 'How long have you had this problem about owning up?'

Activities:

Hold up an eraser, and ask the pupils if they have ever heard the proverb, 'The person who never made a mistake, never made anything?' Discuss.

To start pupils thinking about people making mistakes, and how they get sorted out, show episode 6 until the point where the Moses clip ends (as he runs off into the desert). Then PAUSE.

Explain that Moses was Jewish and Egyptian, but he couldn't cope with the tension between the two. He could have grown up to be an Egyptian king and helped his people in all sorts of ways – but the murder changed everything. Was this the end?

Was it a good thing or a bad thing?

Explore the dilemma facing Moses as he risked losing everything he had to save the slave.

Explain that the murder was a turning point – it was many years before Moses could help his people again. Anger is a natural feeling, but the dilemma is how we can use that feeling to do something good instead of making everything worse?

Invite pupils to think of a time when they lost their temper. Use Worksheet 6a to help the pupils think through the things that make them angry.

Discuss some pupil responses, focussing on the last three questions and whether the loss is worth the benefit.

Watch the rest of the episode, asking pupils to focus on the story of Saul on the road to Damascus, someone who didn't just lose his temper once – he turned it into a kind of hobby.

Use Worksheet 6b to explore:

- 1) How would you describe the character of Saul before that encounter on the road to Damascus?
- 2) Or after?

Saul had to face his mistakes and admit them. This is called 'Repentance' – which means 'turning around, and going a different way.' It can involve saying 'Sorry' if you've hurt someone, but you then have to show you really mean it.

Pupils create their own Sorry card to give to someone – or Sorry cards that could have been written by Saul, or other famous people in History.

Reflection / Personal search / Response:

Pupils reflect on the question: Is there a mistake you've made you can learn something positive from?

Assessment / reporting:

Have the pupils been able to consider situations that make them angry?

Have they been able to reflect on positive ways of handling the situation and their feelings?

Could they analyse aspects of Paul's character?

Name:

Date:

Turning bad things into good 6a

I feel so angry!

Think of a situation that has made you angry in the past, and keeps making you angry now. Try to understand it, using the following headings. Draw or write what happens in the boxes on the right.

| | |
|---|--|
| What happens? | |
| How do I feel when it happens? | |
| What do I feel like doing when it happens? | |
| What would happen if I did do what I feel like doing? | |
| What would I lose if I did what I feel like doing? | |
| Is the loss worth the benefit? | |

Finished ? Draw a cartoon of some of the things that make you feel angry!

Name:

Date:

Turning bad things into good 6b

From Saul to Paul

This strange event changed the history of the world. Saul changed his name to 'Paul', and became a Christian. Afterwards, he helped to develop an amazing new idea – that people didn't need to be Jewish to be Christians. As a result, Christianity spread across the whole Roman Empire – and then, the whole world.

How do you think Saul would have described himself before the event – and afterwards? Write what he says in the speech bubbles.



1) What words would you use to describe Saul as a person before he had that encounter on the road to Damascus – and afterwards? **Write them below the before and after pictures.**

2) What parts of Saul's personality do you think stayed the same after he had his encounter?

3) Think of a time when you made a big mistake about something. How could you turn that into something good?
