

Social Justice Sunday Teachers' Resources

Social Justice Sunday Statement 2005

JESUS, LIGHT FOR THE WORLD

Living the Gospel Today



The following unit of work for use in schools has been written to support the 2005 Social Justice Sunday Statement of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, "Jesus, Light for the World - Living the Gospel Today."

The writers of the unit, Beverley O'Keefe, St Michael's School, Mittagong and Di Brown, Catholic Schools Office, Armidale, have combined Gardner's Multiple Intelligences and Bloom's Revised Taxonomy of cognitive processes to enable teachers to use a tool for differentiating curriculum tasks to address individual differences in students. The unit does not focus on specific year levels, but has a wide range of strategies suitable for students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The activities can be adapted to address the learning outcomes for the various year levels.

Word Intelligence

Remember

The Australian public and businesses pledged more than \$250 million to numerous aid appeals in the recent Asian tsunami. Write what you know about how people helped those affected by the tsunami.

Understand

The Church's mission and that of every Christian must have as a first priority a ministry to the poor, underprivileged and oppressed. Choose a well known person whose life's work has made a significant contribution to the improvement in conditions for less fortunate people. Write your own quiz questions about the person. Use the quiz with other members of your class.

Apply

Prepare a CV/application for a position as a missionary in a third world country. State your preferred country and give reasons for your choice.

Analyse

For the first time in history, the world now has the resources and know-how to greatly alleviate hunger and the worst forms of poverty all over the world. List five important questions you could ask your school community on how this can be achieved.

Evaluate

Write a critical review of the scripture passage *Luke 8:40-56* where it is demonstrated that Jesus gave both the unnamed woman and the official's daughter a future.

Create

Jesus took great care to remind His disciples that respect and love for one another ought to extend beyond His band of followers [e.g. *Luke 17:11-19 Jesus Heals Ten Men*; and *John 4: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman*.] Choose one of these scripture passages to plan and write a play based around this Gospel message.

Logic & Maths Intelligence

Remember

Locate on a world map the countries in the world which suffer serious poverty, and social injustices. List the names of these countries.

Understand

Using the information in Question 1 above, classify these countries under the headings of particular Social Justice Issues, e.g.: poverty, hunger, ethnic discrimination, refugees, etc.

Apply

Using the title 'Jesus, Light of the World-Living the Gospel Today' design a board game using the ideas related to this topic.

Analyse

Compare and contrast the lives of Sir William Deane and Father Chris Riley, two very significant people who have given of their time and talents to help unprivileged people have a better life. Make a matrix to show the similarities and differences in their work.

Evaluation

In the 21st Century our lives are very busy. Sometimes our lives get out of balance, not providing time for the most important people in our lives, like God, family and friends. The way we spend our time reflects our priorities in life. Make a chart showing how you presently spend your time each week. Then make a second chart showing how you might change your priorities, creating time for a more balanced life.

Create

Invent a new computer game to make people more aware of the world's Social Justice issues and how we are all called to reflect Christ's love and compassion to the people we meet each day.

Space & Vision Intelligence

Remember

Make a Story Map of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25:31-46 when He tells us that when we do something for the least of His brothers and sisters we do it to Him.

Understand

Illustrate a Picture Book for young children about the life of Blessed Mary MacKillop. Mary was an outstanding Australian who lived her life educating and caring for poor children in Australia.

Apply

Make a mobile using images or symbols of significant people who have spent their lives reflecting the light of Christ to other people.

Analyse

Draw a Venn Diagram showing the similarities and differences between two Indigenous groups of people who suffer discrimination and hardships in their respective countries.

Evaluation

Make a Booklet showing 5 ways you can personally make a difference in the life of someone in your local community who is less fortunate than yourself.

Create

Jesus gave his followers very clear guidelines of how they could live their lives in this world as sons and daughters of God. We call these guidelines the Beatitudes, found in Matthew 5:3-12. Prepare a Power Point presentation to show how the Beatitudes can be lived out in our world today.

Body Intelligence

Remember

Think about images you have seen on television or in magazines of children who are malnourished. Move or act like children living in poverty in third world countries.

Understand

Make a model or other kind of construction similar to the shelters used by people living in poverty in third world countries.

Apply

Use images and social justice quotes to make a floor game. Play the floor game with other members of your class.

Analyse

Catholic Missions send people all over the world to help others in need. Role play the work of some of these missionaries.

Evaluate

In the Gospel passage *Matthew 25: 31-46* as Jesus approaches death, his closing words to his disciples are to care for the poor. We too are charged to help the destitute of any nation or race or belief. Form a panel and prioritize the physical needs of Australia's refugees.

Create

Create a sports video to demonstrate a simple exercise routine for use with children who are rebuilding their lives after recovering from malnutrition.

Music Intelligence

Remember

Name and sing songs that you already know that are about 'Living the Gospel Today'.

Understand

Summarize the main points of the songs identified in the previous activity.

Apply

Put words to a well known tune to show what you have learned about Social Justice by working on this unit.

Analyse

Compare the song "Face of God" by Mark Raue, [written for Catholic Missions] with the song "Nobody's People" by Dermot Dorgan and Phil and Gemma Glendenning. Make and display a differences and similarities chart about the two songs.

Evaluate

Which songwriters/songs/composers/performers have made the most significant contribution to the Social Justice issues we face today? Justify your choice.

Create

Plan and create a musical show based on *The Parable of the Good Samaritan* {Luke 10: 25-37}

Naturalist Intelligence

Remember

Define the words *ECOLOGY* and *DEFORESTATION*.

Visit Catholic Earthcare Australia's website: www.catholicearthcareoz.net

Understand

Creation has been given to us by *God* to enjoy and use responsibly and not to be abused by the greed of individuals or corporations. In your own words write how we can be more ecologically minded and take better care of our planet.

Apply

'Deforestation' creates huge problems for our planet. Choose a way to illustrate how Deforestation is damaging our planet.

Analyse

We live in a throw-away society. We need to conserve, preserve and share the resources of our world wisely. Design a questionnaire to gather information from your class/school to determine to what extent they *recycle*, and also take measures to *consciously cut back* their use of the world's resources, e.g.: not using plastic bags, conserving petrol, type of heating they use, etc.

Evaluate

Conduct a debate to discuss the following statement.

'The huge amount of money spent on Space Exploration would be better spent helping the people in Third World countries of our world.'

Create

Develop an advertising campaign to run in your school to help make people more aware of the environmental and climatic problems of our world. Challenge them to be personally responsible to do something to improve the balance of nature in their own environment, so that they can truly be co-workers with *God* and stewards of *God's* creation.

People Intelligence

Remember

Caritas Australia works to bring relief and aid to people whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters or conflict. Tell others what you know about the work of Caritas.

Understand

Blessed Mother Teresa is remembered as a symbol of love in action. Her impact on the world has been compared to the ripples a stone makes when it is thrown into a calm pool of water. Summarize what you have learned about Blessed Mother Teresa.

Apply

In the Second Vatican Council's document, 'Church in the Modern World' the Bishops' concluding statement insists that "Christians can have nothing more at heart, than to be ever more effective and of generous service to humanity in the modern world." Discuss this statement with your parents, teachers and friends and choose a community service project in which you can take part.

Analyse

There are many situations of injustice to which we are exposed in our everyday lives. Prepare a report on the distribution of wealth in third world countries.

Evaluate

Work in groups to evaluate the effect of the complex sources of problems experienced in rural Australia e.g. fluctuating commodity prices and world trade barriers, particularly in agricultural products; lack of social infrastructure and withdrawal of essential services; the demographic concentration of populations along the seaboard; lack of job opportunities, the price of fuel and isolation.

Create

There are over 130,000 homeless people every year in Australia, 40,000 of whom are children. The causes are complex e.g. lack of adequate care for those suffering mental illness or disability; the lack of safe, secure, affordable and adequate shelter; substance abuse; gambling; family breakdown; domestic violence; sexual abuse and unemployment.

Plan and present a class talk on how we can 'Live the Gospel Today' in addressing the above issue. Evaluate the audience's reaction.

Self Intelligence

Remember

Define the term 'Social Justice' and list the many issues which relate to this topic.

Understand

Explain in your own words how you can reflect the Light of Christ among the people in your family, school and community.

Apply

Saint Teresa of Avila once wrote "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours....." Find the complete quote (Google) and respond to these words by illustrating, a poster or mural showing your interpretation of the quote.

Analyse

Compare and contrast the way of life and standard of living of a Third World country with that of a First World country like Australia.

Evaluation

Research the work of some agencies for Social Justice at work in many countries around the world, e.g.: Amnesty International, World Vision, Red Cross, Caritas etc and judge how effective you think they have been in helping people and communities in need.

Create

Jean Vanier, [founder of L'Arche communities], by his life, shows the Light of Christ to the people around him. Design a book cover for a new book showing how Jean Vanier brings the Light of Christ to the people with whom he lives and works.

Resources

Ending Hunger, How far can we go? by Bruce Duncan CSsR [Catholic Social Justice Series]

Christian Conscience and Social Justice. by Neil Brown [Catholic Social Justice Series]

Eight Ways at Once by Helen McGrath and Toni Noble. [Pearson Longman]