

Belief and Practice – Lesson Plan KS3 RE

Talk about how we are constantly putting beliefs into practice.

- We believe a chair will hold us up so we sit on it.
- We believe chocolate to taste nice so we eat it.

Many of those involved in campaigns concerned with trade justice or choosing to buy fair trade products are Christians.

Why is this? What are the values underlying it?

Activity

Wrap up a box to look like a present. Ask for three volunteers. Give one the wrapped gift and tell them they are going to try to give the gift to each of the others in turn. Give the other two each a slip of paper. One should say something like 'The person giving you the gift is a shifty character. They often play practical jokes and are not to be trusted.' The other should say something like 'The person giving you the gift is a close friend. You know they would never do anything to hurt you and they have given you many wonderful gifts before'. Tell the two pupils, in front of the whole class, that they should assume information given to them is correct. Now, the gift-bearer should attempt to give the gift to the first pupil. They should be suspicious and may even refuse the gift.

Ask the class what they can infer from the pupil's behaviour about the relationship between these people, or what the pupil thinks of the gift-bearer. The gift-bearer then tries to give the gift to the other pupil. They gladly accept and are delighted etc. Discuss what we can tell about *this* relationship.

Discussion

Ask pupils to think through decisions they make and actions they take during the course of a day or week. How do these decisions reflect their values or beliefs about other people, themselves and the world? Give a few examples to get the ball rolling.

Now ask what we can tell about the values and beliefs of a campaigner for trade justice and fair trade.

Why not encourage them to use the Speaker Network to invite a Christian involved in campaigning to come and speak to the class (if this is something you haven't already covered)? If appropriate, you could arrange to go back and do a follow up talk on putting your beliefs into practice.

The following Bible references can be used as a springboard to discuss possible motivations of Christians for involvement in 'justice campaigning'.

Deut 24:16-18 – Do not deprive the alien/ fatherless of justice.

Micah 6:8 – Do justly, love mercy, walk humbly.

Matthew 25 – Parable of the sheep and the goats.

Luke 6:45 – 'For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks'.

Matthew 23:23 – Following the letter of the law but ignoring justice.