

Living

Year: 6 Term: 2

Key question: What matters most to Christians and Humanists?

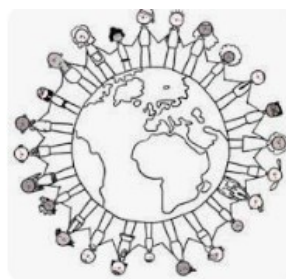
- Reflect on the question: why do people do good things and bad things? Are we all a mixture of good and bad? Make a link with Christian belief about humans being made in the image of God. Why do Christians think this is a good explanation of why humans are good and bad? Make a link with what it means to be a Humanist: 'good without God' is a Humanist slogan.
- Talk about how having a 'code for living' might help people to be good. Talk about the difference if someone believes guidance comes from a divine Being or that human beings must decide their own guidelines.
- Look at a Humanist 'code for living', e.g. Be honest; Use your mind; Be rational; Tell the truth; Do to other people what you would like them to do to you. How would this help people to behave? What would a Humanist class, school or town look like? Explore the meanings of some big moral concepts, e.g. fairness, freedom, truth, honesty, kindness, peace. What do they look like in everyday life?
- Christian codes for living, which can be summed up in Jesus' two great commandments: 'Love God and love your neighbour'. Explore in detail how Jesus expects his followers to behave through the use of the story of the Good Samaritan and Jesus' attitude on the cross. Jesus talks about actions as fruit. What does he mean? If a person's intentions are bad, can their actions produce good fruit?
- Consider why some people hold the values which they do, and how these values make a difference to their lives.
- Consider some direct questions about values: is peace more valuable than money? Is love more important than freedom? Is thinking bad thoughts as bad as acting upon them? Notice and think about the fact that values can clash, and that doing the right thing can be difficult. How do pupils decide for themselves?

Vocabulary

Humanism	A philosophical way of thinking which encourages people to do good and make a difference in the world, without believing in God, gods or goddesses.
divinity	A divinity is a religious being, like a god or angel. Divine means holy or sacred.
moral values	Moral values are the sense of right and wrong as per the accepted norms and standards of the society.
principle	A principle is a kind of rule, belief, or idea that guides you. Some kind of basic truth that helps you with your life.
New Testament	The New Testament was written after Jesus lived on Earth and introduces us to him, his birth, life and how he died to save humans on earth from their sins.
Commandments	If someone believes that God has directed them to do something, it's a commandment. It is a divinely order.
meditation	The art of focusing on something (such as a picture, a sound, an object of the imagination, or one's own breathing) to encourage attention and awareness, as well as achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm, stable state.

Key Questions:

- Do rules matter? Why? What is a code for living?
- Who is a humanist? What codes for living do non-religious people use?
- What can we learn from discussion and drama about good & bad, right & wrong?
- What codes for living do Christians try to follow?
- What can we learn from a Values Game?
- Peace: is it more valuable than any money?
- Can we create a code for living that would help the world?



meditation



Commandments