

Activity 1: Celebrating

What can we learn from Matthew's Gospel?

Aims:

- To find out who Matthew was
- To explore three passages in Matthew's Gospel
- To reflect on the teachings in Matthew's Gospel

Resources: PowerPoint, three worksheets (available to download www.cathchild.org.uk)

Starter

PPT Slide 2. Explain that this year is the 'Year of the Word'. Throughout the year, Catholics all around the country will be focusing on the Bible. In these activities, we will be:

1. Celebrating the Bible- exploring what the Bible says in more detail
2. Living the Bible- looking at how we can put what the Bible says into action
3. Sharing- sharing what we have learnt with others

Introduction: Who was Matthew?

Class discussion to introduce Matthew's Gospel using the questions and answers on slide 4. Use slides 5-7 to explain who Matthew was.

What can we learn from Matthew's Gospel?

Explain that we will look at three Bible passages to see what we can learn from Matthew's Gospel.

Matthew 14. 13-21: Jesus Feeds a Great Crowd

Read the Bible passage aloud once or twice.

Slide 14. Lead a quiet reflection. Pupils spend one-minute reflecting on the story in silence.

Lead a class discussion:

- What do they think the most important part of the story is? Pupils may have different opinions on what the most important part of the story is- we all see different things in scripture.
- What does this story tell us about Jesus? The story tells us about how powerful Jesus is; that God can give us what we need; that Jesus is compassionate and cares for the hungry . . .

- What can we learn from this story? To share what we have with others, to follow Jesus' example and help the hungry and those in need . . .

Pupils use the online worksheet or plain paper to create a storyboard of 'Jesus Feeds a Great Crowd'

Matthew 14: 22-33 Jesus Walks on the Water

Read the Bible passage aloud once or twice.

Slide 21. Lead a quiet reflection. Pupils spend one-minute reflecting on the story in silence.

Lead a class discussion:

- What do they think the most important part of the story is? Pupils may have different opinions on what the most important part of the story is- we all see different things in scripture.
- What does this story tell us about Jesus? The story tells us about how powerful Jesus is
- What can we learn from this story? To keep our faith in Jesus . . .

Pupils use the online worksheet (with writing frame) or plain paper to write a diary entry from the point of view of one of Jesus's disciples

Matthew 20. 29-34 Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

Read the Bible passage aloud once or twice.

Slide 26. Lead a quiet reflection. Pupils spend one-minute reflecting on the story in silence.

Lead a class discussion:

- What do they think the most important part of the story is? Pupils may have different opinions on what the most important part of the story is- we all see different things in scripture.
- What does this story tell us about Jesus? Jesus is kind, compassionate and helps those in need.
- What can we learn from this story? Jesus is kind, compassionate and helps those in need.

In groups of three or four pupils create a drama using the online worksheet. One group presents their drama to the class. Use slide 28 and the online prompt worksheet to freeze the drama and ask the characters questions.

Review

Pupils explain three things they have learnt from Matthew's Gospel.

Activity 2: Living

How can we follow Matthew's Gospel?

Aims:

- To reflect on the teachings of Matthew's Gospel
- To explore the work of the Catholic Children's Society
- To reflect on how we are following Matthew's Gospel by supporting the Catholic Children's Society

Resources: PowerPoint, worksheet, (available to download www.cathchild.org.uk)

Starter

Slide 31. Recap learning from Celebrating activity. Pupils guess the passage from the picture. What did we learn from each passage?

Introduction: Following Matthew's Gospel

Explain that Matthew's Gospel includes one of Jesus's most important teachings. Read **Matthew 25. 35-40**.

Slide 33. Ask pupils: What is Jesus trying to say to us? Use the slide to explain that the Catholic Children's Society lives out Matthew's Gospel, and by supporting the Catholic Children's Society they are following Jesus's Teaching in Matthew's Gospel.

How does the Catholic Children's Society follow Matthew's Gospel?

Hand out the worksheet 'How can we follow Matthew's Gospel?' one per pupil.

Read stories and ask pupils to answer the questions in the grid. To answer the question, 'By helping this family, which part of Matthew's Gospel are we following?', pupils need to reflect on Matthew 25. 35-40. By helping this family, are we feeding the hungry etc.

This could be organised as a group carousel activity.

Slide 63. Explain to pupils that by helping local children like Alex, Ben, Marla, Daniel, Joseph and Holly, they are following Jesus's teaching to look after those in need.

Activity 3: Sharing

How can we share what we have learnt from Matthew's Gospel?

Aims:

- To make a 'Light Your Path' Lantern
- To reflect on Matthew's Gospel and think about how we will follow Jesus's teachings

Resources: PowerPoint, worksheet, (available to download www.cathchild.org.uk)

Starter

Slide 65. Recap learning from Living activity. Class discussion- how can we follow Matthew's Gospel?

Lantern

Print and copy online lantern worksheets one per pupil. Pupils decorate, cut, and glue together their lantern. On the windows of the lantern pupils will write/draw four things they will do to follow Matthew's Gospel.

Play relaxing music. Pupils walk around the room with their lanterns and tell one another how they will follow Matthew's Gospel. Pupils return to their seats and stick the flames inside the lantern.

Lanterns can be used as a display.

Prayer for the Year of the Word

Conclude the activities with the official prayer for the Year of the Word.

Living God,

you walk alongside us

and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.

Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears

and shows us how to live for one another.

Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds

so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world.

Amen

V. Your word is our path and your truth is our light.

R. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation

Pray for us

St Matthew

Pray for us

St Jerome

Pray for us