

## How have Christian Art and Music attempted to inspire people to find Peace? (7-11 years)

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### Learning Outcomes

#### Emerging

- Offer a meaning of the word 'peace'
- Make a link between Christian belief and the idea of peace with reference to a piece of Christian art or music

#### Expected

- Show understanding of two Christian concepts, such as forgiveness and justice, through talking or writing
- Identify an aspect of a painting and explain how it links to a Christian idea

#### Exceeding

- Make a link between a Christian idea or belief and a biblical text read
- Suggest, with reference to Christian art or music, why these pieces were created

### Key words and concepts

- **The Peace of God:** In the book of Genesis, in the Bible, all the creatures are described as being in harmony with one another and at peace with God. Before the temptation of Adam and Eve, Adam is described as walking with God in the cool of the day. As a result of the falling of Adam and Eve into sin in the Garden of Eden, after they had eaten the fruit from the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil, Christians believe that all humans failed to be obedient to God, and so were separated from God's love. A core belief in Christianity is that Jesus' sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of every human being, enabled all people to receive the peace of God, through restored relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, and with other people.
- **Reconciliation:** The belief that situations, relationships between people and God can be put right.
- **Restoration:** The belief that God, through Jesus death and resurrection, offers healing, wholeness, justice, peace in people's lives.
- **Inspiration:** Here, referring to an uplifting influence or feeling (that some believe could be divine) that motivates or qualifies a person to communicate moral or religious ideas or truths in a creative way. People who observe the results of that creativity may in turn be 'inspired' to change their life in some way, or look at life differently.
- **War and Spiritual battle:** War may be understood as the opposite of peace, both in military and relationship terms. That there is a constant spiritual battle between life and death, good and evil is a core belief in Christianity. Christians believe that Christ's death on the cross was the ultimate victory

over sin and death, making it possible for people to be at peace with God and in relationships with one another.

- **The Trinity:** Christianity is a monotheistic religion which teaches that God has three ways of being. These are the Father, Jesus the incarnate and the Holy Spirit working in the world. The Trinity is held to be one God working in harmony in three different ways.
- **Incarnation:** The doctrine that God took human form in Jesus Christ. It is also the belief that God in Christ is active in the Church and in the world.
- **Christ/Messiah:** The anointed one. Messiah is used in the Jewish tradition to refer to the expected leader sent by God, who will bring salvation to God's people. Jesus' followers applied this title to him, and its Greek equivalent, Christ, is the source of the words Christian and Christianity.
- **Pacifist:** a person who believes in pacifism or is opposed to war or to violence of any kind.
- **The Parables:** e.g., The parable of the prodigal, or lost son. Jesus communicated about the Kingdom of God, and God's relationship with people through stories, using everyday situations and objects.
- **Ritual: The Peace:** a part of some church services where people offer one another a sign of peace, by shaking hands, or greeting with a kiss on the cheek.
- **Ritual: Eucharist:** Thanksgiving. A service celebrating the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, using elements of bread and wine (also known as Holy Communion).

## Learning activities

The learning activities below are based around art and music expressing Christian beliefs. A full table is given. These pieces of art and music should be easy to find online, but you will want to identify them before you start teaching.

- Explain to the pupils that amongst the most powerful ways of expressing important ideas are the use of **art** and **music**, and that as a class you are going to look at how different artistic and musical forms inspired by Biblical texts have been used to express Christian beliefs about peace, including the idea of divine peace.
- As a class, create a mind map harvesting all that the pupils know about peace in Christianity and comparisons with other religions. Remind them, for example, that peace - 'shalom' - is an important idea in Judaism and that peace - 'salaam' - is in the root of the word 'Islam'.
- Explain that 'peace' is one of the main themes of the Bible (it appears around 250 times) and that many artists and composers have tried to communicate its importance. Remind the pupils that the Bible was written down over several hundred years and ask them why they think peace might have been such an important idea over this length of time. Is it still an important idea for us today? Encourage pupils to share their ideas on why this might be so. Explain that one way of gaining insights into this big idea is to investigate artistic and musical expressions and to think of how this might inspire us today.
- Arrange the pupils into groups of three and give each group one key text from the Christian Bible and examples of the following visual art, music, and songs (including lyrics).

Texts	Art form	Artist	Work of Art
<b>Old Testament</b>			
Genesis 1	Painting	Jan Breughel	<i>Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden</i> , Signed and dated 1615 The scene expresses the more general idea that in the Garden of Eden all creatures including humans, were at peace with one another, and God, before Adam and Eve at the forbidden fruit. Notice the leopard playing near the ox and the spaniel befriending the duck.
Genesis 1	Painting	Paul Hobbs	<i>Three in One</i> acrylic on paper
Genesis 1	Orchestral Music	Joseph Haydn	<i>The Creation overture - representation of chaos</i>
Genesis 1	Orchestral Music	Joseph Haydn	<i>The Creation part 3 Adam and Eve</i>
Genesis 1	Modern Choral music	John Rutter	<i>For the beauty of the earth</i>
Genesis 1	Modern worship song	Brian Doerksen	<i>Creation calls</i>
<b>New Testament</b>			
Luke 15 The Parable of the Prodigal(lost) Son	Painting	Rembrandt	<i>The Return of the Prodigal Son</i> , c. 1661– 1669. 262 cm × 205 cm.
Luke 15 The Parable of the Lost Son	Sculpture and Painting	Charlie Mackesy	<i>The return of the Prodigal Son</i> , Bronze, 2003 The parable of the lost daughter, oil on canvas, 2009
Crucifixion and Prodigal son	Modern worship song	Stuart Townend	<i>How deep the father's</i>
Matthew	Altarpiece painting	Raphael	The Mond Crucifixion, The crucified Christ with the virgin Mary, saints and angels, 1502-3
Matthew 27 v 32 -66 The Crucifixion	Modern painting	Craigie Aitchison	Calvary, Oil on panel in Truro Cathedral, 1996 A series of reproductions including of Craigie Aitchison's 'Calvary'
Matthew 27 v 32 -66	Traditional hymn	Isaac Watts	When I survey the wondrous cross. Or try The Wonderful Cross by Chris Tomlin and Matt Redman
Lord make me an instrument of thy peace	Choral music	John Rutter	Lord make me an instrument of thy peace You can also find the lyrics online
Matthew 27 v32-66	Song and lyrics	Matt Redman	Once Again I think upon your Sacrifice You can also find the lyrics online

## WORKING WITH ART

- Show the class the following pictures: Jan Breughel - 'Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden', Paul Hobbs – 'Three in One,' Raphael - The Mond Crucifixion, Craigie Aitchison - 'Crucifixion', 'Rembrandt -

Return of the Prodigal Son', Charlie Mackesy – sculpture The return of the Prodigal Son' (NB without the pupils seeing titles and descriptions)

- Ask the pupils to describe what they see in the works of art and to consider the idea that 'peace' is not just 'the absence of war'.
- Give them the titles of the works of art and ask them to match these with the pictures. Encourage them to say how the title might help to understand more about the theme, and where or how they see Peace communicated in these works of art? [Remind them about of the idea of peace being a great theme of the Bible – see above.]
- Ask them what they know about Christian ideas of *forgiveness*, *reconciliation*, *justice* and *restoration* [see 'Subject Knowledge' section above] and whether these ideas appear to feature in the artworks. How might these ideas help us understand what these artists were communicating about the Christian concept of 'the Peace of God'? How might they help us go further than thinking of peace as more than just the end of a conflict?
- Encourage pupils to record any views, observations, and comments they have about peace and the different ways in which the works of art express it, and add them to a working wall display.
- Now arrange the pupils into groups of four and ask each group to comment on the works of art under three headings – subject, atmosphere and message. Ask them to write any questions the work of art raises, what they agree with and what they disagree with.
- Each group then meets up with another group and compares works of art. They could then try to answer one another's questions and explain what they agree and disagree about. Ask them to describe and interpret the meaning of:
  - the ideas they notice in each individual work of art;
  - the similarities they notice between any two or three of the works of art;
  - the differences they notice between any two or three of the works of art.
- Each group can then feedback to the whole class and pupils can be encouraged to research any unanswered questions. Any new ideas can be added to an ongoing 'Ideas about the Art of Peace' record.
- Conduct a vote for the work of art that pupils think most effectively communicates Christian beliefs about peace. The results and reasons given can be added to the working wall display.
- Explain that to get further insights into how the idea of peace can really make a difference to us today, it is worth examining the Bible texts that inspired the different works of art. Provide pupils with the Bible texts: Genesis 1 and Matthew 26 v 32- 66 or a children's version and ask them to search for evidence or make inferences and deductions about the Christian beliefs about peace from the texts.
- Lead a short period of reflection, encouraging pupils to think about how the texts and works of art might inspire people to search for peace in their own lives.
- Following the reflective time, ask each group to write a label for the works of art, describing their response to them, and about how the content of the Bible text might be reflected in the artwork.
- Ask them to further consider what difference these art works could make to a Christian believer's understanding of peace, and what response they might inspire from a believer and non-believer. What

are their own reflections on the 'search for peace'? What would life be like if more people looked for this kind of peace? Encourage them to add to the 'Ideas about the Art of peace' working wall display.

- Extend pupils' understanding by introducing them to the examples of sacred music, both orchestral choral and solo pieces inspired by the same Bible texts, as the different works of art. [See above for samples.]
- Ask the pupils such questions as:
  - Why have the pieces of music been given these titles?
  - What do you think the composer or song writer believes about peace?
  - What do you think the composer or singer believes about God?

Ask the pupils to work in pairs to either create a piece of art, or write their own song lyrics responding to the stimulus 'Finding Peace', using the artwork, texts and music as stimuli. Encourage pupils to choose their own titles, to feature Christian ideas about 'the Peace of God' in their responses and to provide some accompanying notes to explain the ideas that they present.

- When the pupils have completed their work give them an opportunity to present a selection to the whole class. Ask them to say which religious groups they think might share these ideas or think differently. Are there any groups' ideas they think have not been represented in the pupils' creative reflections? What might those groups think?
- Encourage them to add any last questions and answers about what peace might mean to Christians, themselves and others to the 'Ideas about the Art of Peace' working wall display.
- As a further assessment activity pupils could be asked to choose the content, artwork and design for a website homepage on the theme of inspiring others to explore how Christian and other ideas about peace are communicated through different art forms.