

KNOWING GOD



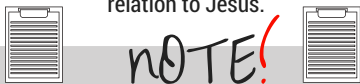
LESSON 4

LEARNING OUTCOMES I WILL HAVE

1. Explained why truth is important
2. Considered what belief is
3. Discussed my reaction to a thought experiment
4. Examined who Jesus was in the light of the evidence



This lesson is about unpacking the nature of truth by challenging relativism. It continues with the themes of decisions and logical enquiry in relation to Jesus.

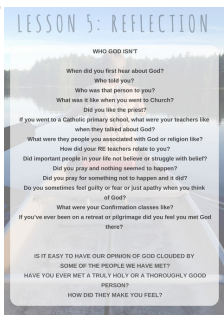


The content of this lesson will be challenging and will probably spark debate which is good as it shows they are thinking about the issues. Some students may object if they think the content is 'one-sided', so it might be good to emphasise (when you go through the learning outcomes) that it is about looking at truth and the person of Jesus from a logical standpoint, using historical evidence. If your class is mixed in terms of faith, then you may have to adapt the content to ensure it is inclusive.

Prior Learning

The reflection on slide 10 is partly a recap from last lesson, but also links and develops the themes from Lesson 3 into this lesson. You may want to do this with quiet music, candles etc. The whole point of it is to show that their ideas about God may be completely shaped by someone else. This idea leads into the animation (slide 12) which encourages them to ensure their decisions about belief are their own.

REFLECTION



You may or may choose not to give this sheet out when you read the reflection - or you might want to let the students read it to themselves.

KEY BIBLE VERSE:

"I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

"Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'" (John 8:31-32)

CURRICULUM DIRECTORY:

1.1.2. The Nature of Revelation: God's gift of himself (74-100) A Scripture, Tradition, and the depositum fidei (74-100, 103-108, 134-135)

a Definitions, b Scripture is the inspired record of God's Revelation in history, c Tradition is the living transmission of the message of the Gospel in the Church. 1.1.3.

Faith: the response to God's self-Revelation (144-165). a Recognition and acceptance of him as the Son

of God who died to save us from our sins (1248) b Willingness to believe and trust in what Jesus has taught us about the Triune God, about ourselves, and about how to live (915, 1693, 1816, 1823, 1986, 2262, 2347, 2427, 2466, 2612)

TIME

TEACHER

ACTIVITY

LEARNERS

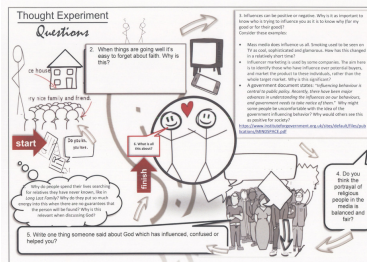
SLIDE

2	register			1-2
10	introduce questions and 'would I lie?' game	STARTER GAME	discussing & playing in groups of 4	3-7
5	play presentation	LINK QUESTIONS	watching /answering questions	8
1	explain	LEARNING OUTCOMES		9
7	read reflection	INDEPENDENT THINKING TIME	mentally noting reactions pair sharing	10-11
15	play animation lead discussion worksheet 1	LEARNING 1	thought experiment: challenge completing questions	12-14
20	questioning playing clips worksheet 2	LEARNING 2	listening discussing & responding	15-35
5	discuss questions	CONSOLIDATION	reflecting synthesising	36
5	plenary	PLENARY	challenge making links	37-39
5	invite a student to lead the prayer	PRAYER		40

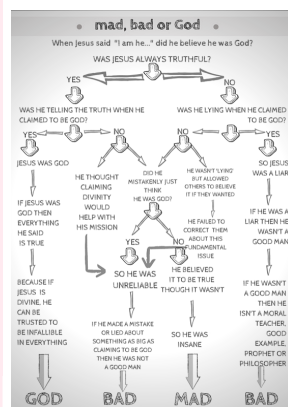
Lesson Time: 75 mins. Lesson 4 of 6 (you may need to leave out one activity or complete the content over 2 lessons)

WORKSHEET 1 THOUGHT EXPERIMENT

This is the sheet which comes after the animation



WORKSHEET 2 MAD, BAD OR GOD



- This is C.S Lewis' Trilemma
- It allows the students to see logically the thought process
- This takes place as part of 'Learning 1' activities after Fr Frankie's video
- There is a link to an article about this in the notes section of the slide

RESOURCES

Presentation: Lesson 4A
Instructions for the Game
2 Worksheets



★ key words & people ★
C.S Lewis, Trilemma

Assessment

The 'Thought Experiment' worksheet will enable you to see if they have understood the animation. There is plenty of space for discussion and feedback.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Why does truth matter?
2. Was Jesus really God?
3. Did Jesus really rise from the dead?



ACN

LESSON 4: REFLECTION

WHO GOD ISN'T

When did you first hear about God?

Who told you?

Who was that person to you?

What was it like when you went to Church?

Did you like the priest?

If you went to a Catholic primary school, what were your teachers like when they talked about God?

What were they people you associated with God or religion like?

How did your RE teachers relate to you?

Did important people in your life not believe or struggle with belief?

Did you pray and nothing seemed to happen?

Did you pray for something not to happen and it did?

Do you sometimes feel guilty or fear or just apathy when you think of God?

What were your Confirmation classes like?

If you've ever been on a retreat or pilgrimage did you feel you met God there?

IS IT EASY TO HAVE OUR OPINION OF GOD CLOUDED BY

SOME OF THE PEOPLE WE HAVE MET?

HAVE YOU EVER MET A TRULY HOLY OR A THOROUGHLY GOOD PERSON?

HOW DID THEY MAKE YOU FEEL?

MASS MEDITATION

Our sins would define us for ever and our weaknesses would overwhelm us. From our perspective, God can seem a bit crazy; he becomes sin, death, small, weak and allows himself to be defeated, so we don't have to.

Now God's unexpected ways of doing things continues today. God could appear in the sky or take over the internet for everyone to see him and prove his existence. Again, if I were God, I'd probably drawn to this idea! But God's vision is vast, eternal and all-loving. **God's plan is beyond our understanding.** He planned to stay with us forever after the resurrection. He kept this promise, but just like his birth, death and resurrection he does so in a way that we'd never have guessed.

If you walked up to someone in the street today and said, "Come and meet God", yes God, the one who made you. Obviously they would think you were not sane, as they thought about Jesus himself. If you took that person to Mass and you told them that Jesus is present, what would they think? After seeing the Eucharist raised up by the priest at Mass, the stranger may say; "that was God? – it certainly didn't look like God." Why would he be in something that looks like a wafer?

Looks can be deceiving. Some of the people at the time Jesus was alive didn't believe he was God because he didn't fit into their preconceived ideas about what the saviour would be like. **But those who opened their hearts, like Mary at the resurrection, recognised him.** We all have preconceived ideas about what God should look like. We even like to think we know how God should act in the world. When "God" doesn't do what I think he should be doing, I can be tempted to say, "ahh, you see, he doesn't exist!"

The challenge is to open our hearts, like those who followed Jesus and open our minds like to the one who is real - reality itself. When we don't go beyond our own expectations, we reduce God to 'my image of what God should be'. Now even the most intelligent among us have limitations – is that all God is, a construct of what I want him to be? Rejected when he doesn't live up to my expectations? In a human relationship where there is love, we are surprised, amazed and delighted when we are allowed to be ourselves and when we get to know the 'real' other person. People describe there being layers of depth in another, whether it be a parent with a child, a couple in love or among friends. You think you know all there is to know about a person and then you realise there's much more, even greater depths to that person and to yourself when you are with them. How much more is there with God.

What are the depths of God that are there for us to discover? Do we allow God to be God in our lives or do we not allow God to be 'the real God' the same way some people don't accept 'the real us'?

Starter Task: Lesson 4A: Truth and Lies (GREEN GROUP)

IN GROUPS OF 4, SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS OF TWO. THE FIRST GROUP OF TWO ARE REDS (your opponents) AND THE SECOND GROUP OF TWO ARE THE GREENS (that's you).

WITH YOUR PARTNER, YOUR TASK IS TO COME UP WITH THREE STORIES WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE TRUE. THEY ARE GOING TO TRY TO SPOT WHEN THE YOU ARE LYING.

RULES

1. Your true and false stories must be about you
2. The fabricated stories must be convincing enough to be true
3. You can decide to make all of your stories true, false or a mixture of true and false
4. You can work in with your partner and have three stories between you or you can have two or three each (depending on the timing of the lesson).
5. If you manage to deceive your opponents then you win (though obviously this is not something to be condoned in real life!)

YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER

1. Your body language
2. The way you speak – as in the kind of words you use
3. How well your opponents know you. If you know your opponents very well (you are close friends or have been in the same class for years), then you will have to think of stories about you that they wouldn't know; maybe about your family, something that happened when you were younger (before you met them) etc.

You can write down some notes about your stories in the space below and once you have said them, write a couple of notes about whether it was easy or difficult and at the end whether you succeeded in your attempts to deceive.

STORY NAME	KEY POINTS	DIFFICULTY LEVEL 1=REALLY EASY TO 10 =REALLY DIFFICULT	SCORE:

Starter Task: Lesson 4A: Truth and Lie (RED GROUP)

IN GROUPS OF 4, SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS OF TWO. THE FIRST GROUP OF TWO CAN BE THE REDS (that's you) AND THE SECOND GROUP OF TWO (your opponents) ARE THE GREENS. YOUR TASK IS TO TRY AND SPOT WHEN THE GREENS ARE LYING. SOME OF THESE TIPS MAY HELP YOU. READ CAREFULLY, WATCH YOUR OPPONENTS CLOSELY AND LISTEN TO THE WORDS THEY USE. THEY WILL EACH TELL YOU 2 STORIES, INCIDENTS, OR RECOLLECTIONS. WHEN THEY HAVE DONE SO, DECIDE WITH YOUR PARTNER, HOW MANY ARE TRUE.

(Both of the articles below are taken from @MailOnline on Twitter | DailyMail on Facebook)

Noah Zandan, a science communicator, uses a technique called linguistic text analysis (which is based on the difference between how we structure the truth, and lies – can help people spot untruths) and then applies this technology to video recordings of famous lies. Linguistic text analysis helps people spot four common patterns in the subconscious language of lying. In his TED talk Noah explained that liars tend to refer to themselves less in a story. Other factors he discovered are that liars:

1. Tend to refer to themselves less in a story that isn't true
2. Sometimes use hypothetical situations
3. Mention others more than usual
4. Often use negative terms, because they are subconsciously feeling guilty, 'for example, a liar might say: "Sorry, my stupid phone battery died. I hate that thing," (Mr Zanden)
5. Overly-simplified stories because humans find it hard to construct and keep track of complex lies
6. May have simple stories but tend to use longer, convoluted sentences
7. Add in irrelevant but factual-sounding details in a bid to make a story sound more convincing
8. Typically mention themselves less and talk more about others in a lie
9. Sometimes use the third person to disassociate themselves from their lie, because they feel subconsciously guilty
10. Tend to be more negative because on a subconscious level they feel guilty about lying

Read more and see the video at: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2821767/The-language-LYING-Expert-reveals-tiny-clues-way-people-talk-reveal-withholding-truth.html#ixzz4rEWFCUeY>

JUDI JAMES' NINE WAYS TO SPOT A LIAR

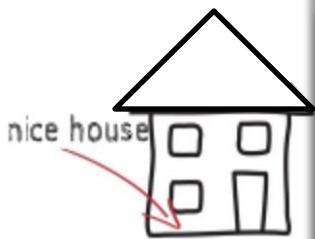
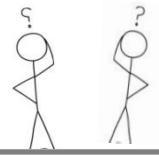
Other researchers show that body language can reveal when a person isn't being truthful. Body language expert Judi James has revealed the key signs to look out for if you're concerned that someone is lying. These signs can help you spot a liar, but isn't, she stresses, a set formula.

1. **The big pause:** Lying is quite a complex process for the body and brain to deal with. First your brain produces the truth which it then has to suppress before inventing the lie and the performance of that lie. This often leads to a longer pause than normal before answering, plus a verbal stalling technique like 'Why do you ask that?' rather than a direct and open response.
2. **The eye dart:** Humans have more eye expressions than any other animal and our eyes can give away if we're trying to hide something. When we look up to our left to think we're often accessing recalled memory, but when our eyes roll up to our right we can be thinking more creatively. Also, the guilt of a lie often makes people use an eye contact cut-off gesture, such as looking down or away.
3. **The lost breath:** Bending the truth causes an instant stress response in most people, meaning the fight or flight mechanisms are activated. The mouth dries, the body sweats more, the pulse rate quickens and the rhythm of the breathing changes to shorter, shallower breaths that can often be both seen and heard.
4. **Overcompensating:** A liar will often over-perform, both speaking and gesticulating too much in order to be more convincing. These over the top body language rituals can involve too much eye contact (often without blinking!) and over-emphatic gesticulation.
5. **The poker face:** Although some people prefer to employ the poker face, many assume less is more and almost shut down in terms of movement and eye contact when they're being economical with the truth.
6. **The face hide:** When someone tells a lie they often suffer a strong desire to hide their face from their audience. This can lead to a partial cut-off gesture like the well-known nose touch or mouth-cover.
7. **Actions to alleviate stress:** The stress and discomfort of lying often produces gestures that are aimed at comforting the liar, such as rocking, hair-stroking or twiddling or playing with wedding rings. We all tend to use self-comfort gestures but this will increase dramatically when someone is fibbing.
8. **Micro-gestures:** These are very small gestures or facial expressions that can flash across the face so quickly they are difficult to see. Experts will often use filmed footage that is then slowed down to pick up on the true body language response emerging in the middle of the performed lie. The best time to spot these in real life is to look for the facial expression that occurs after the liar has finished speaking. The mouth might skew or the eyes roll in an instant give-away.
9. **Heckling hands:** The hardest body parts to act with are the hands or feet and liars often struggle to keep them on-message while they lie. When the gestures and the words are at odds it's called incongruent gesticulation and it's often the hands or feet that are telling the truth.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-4323860/Body-language-expert-reveals-nine-ways-spot-liar.html#ixzz4rEXKB9ZG>

Thought Experiment

Questions



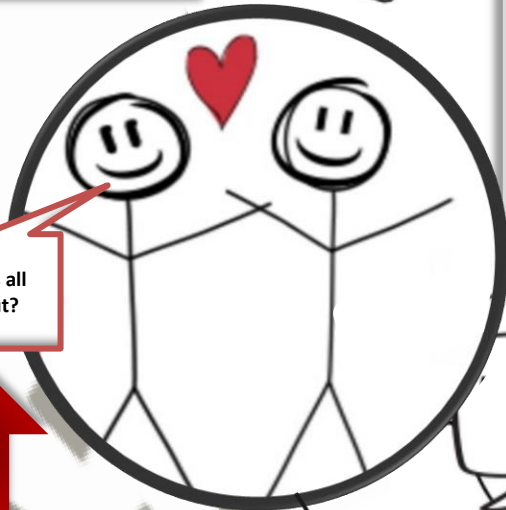
2. When things are going well it's easy to forget about faith. Why is this?



Do you know.. you have.

1. Why do people spend their lives searching for relatives they have never known, like in *Long Lost Family*? Why do they put so much energy into this when there are no guarantees that the person will be found? Why is this relevant when discussing God?

6. What is all this about?



5. Write one thing someone said about God which has influenced, confused or helped you?

3. Influences can be positive or negative. Why is it as important to know who is trying to influence you as it is to know why (for my good or for their good)? Consider these examples:

- Mass media does influence us all. Smoking used to be seen on TV as cool, sophisticated and glamorous. How has this changed in a relatively short time?
- Influencer marketing is used by some companies. The aim here is to identify those who have influence over potential buyers, and market the product to these individuals, rather than the whole target market. Why is this significant?
- A government document states: "*Influencing behaviour is central to public policy. Recently, there have been major advances in understanding the influences on our behaviours, and the government needs to take notice of them.*" Why might some people be uncomfortable with the idea of the government influencing behavior? Why would others see this as positive for society?

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/sites/default/files/>



4. Do you think the portrayal of religious people in the media is balanced and fair?

mad, bad or God

When Jesus said "I am he..." did he believe he was God?

WAS JESUS ALWAYS TRUTHFUL?

YES



WAS HE TELLING THE TRUTH WHEN HE CLAIMED TO BE GOD?

YES



JESUS WAS GOD

IF JESUS WAS GOD THEN EVERYTHING HE SAID IS TRUE

BECAUSE IF JESUS IS DIVINE, HE CAN BE TRUSTED TO BE INFALLIBLE IN EVERYTHING

GOD

NO



WAS HE LYING WHEN HE CLAIMED TO BE GOD?

NO



DID HE MISTAKENLY JUST THINK HE WAS GOD?



SO HE WAS UNRELIABLE

IF HE MADE A MISTAKE OR LIED ABOUT SOMETHING AS BIG AS CLAIMING TO BE GOD THEN HE WAS NOT A GOOD MAN

BAD

HE WASN'T 'LYING' BUT ALLOWED OTHERS TO BELIEVE IT IF THEY WANTED

HE FAILED TO CORRECT THEM ABOUT THIS FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE

HE BELIEVED IT TO BE TRUE THOUGH IT WASN'T

SO HE WAS INSANE

MAD

YES



SO JESUS WAS A LIAR

IF HE WAS A LIAR THEN HE WASN'T A GOOD MAN

IF HE WASN'T A GOOD MAN THEN HE ISN'T A MORAL TEACHER, GOOD EXAMPLE, PROPHET OR PHILOSOPHER

BAD

HE THOUGHT CLAIMING DIVINITY WOULD HELP WITH HIS MISSION



YES



NO

