

# RESISTANCE

## LESSON 5

**Identified and critically evaluated** the reasons why resistance of God can be so easy

2. Chosen one example to **investigate**

3. **Discussed and explained** my obstacle to the group



This lesson examines some of the ways in which we resist God. It asks students to consider some of the main obstacles that they may have to a relationship with God, or 'people in general'. The image used throughout the lesson is a wall and each 'block' or brick represents one way in which we resist God. The videos then comment on these blocks. The aim of the videos is not necessarily to persuade them, but to show how resistance can be overcome.

Not all of the questions raised in this lesson are answered - they are not the kind of questions that can be dealt with in a hurry - though of the issues are covered to some degree in Lesson 6.

## Note

The lesson would take 90 minutes if you watch all the clips as a class. This would be worth doing if you have the time, or they can choose.

★ key words ★

MATERIALISM, SECULARISM, RELATIVISM,  
NARCISSISM, RESISTANCE.



TIME	TEACHER	ACTIVITY	LEARNERS	SLIDE
10	register	STARTER	thinking	1-5
	logic puzzle & clip		discussing	
3	learning outcomes	LEARNING OUTCOMES	initially reacting key words definitions	6
12	mindmap animation	LEARNING 1	evaluating, thinking applying	7-11
30	video clips & worksheet	LEARNING 2	interactive task choice & investigation	12-26
10	provide calm environment for wall task	REFLECTION & CONSOLIDATION	response	27-28
10	introduce discussion from videos	PLENARY	application, discussion	29-32
10	prayer with animations	PRAYER		33-37

Lesson Time: 90 mins. Lesson 5 of 6

## Prior Learning

The preceding lessons will provide the background for this lesson, as will the students' own experience, .

## Differentiation

There is an element of choice in this lesson whereby students can watch the clips they choose, so therefore they can go at their own pace and watch as many or as few as they wish within the time. The task is accessible to all as it's based on the lesson,

## ASSESSMENT

You can check whether they have met the learning outcomes when they share their thoughts during the plenary.

## KEY QUESTIONS

- KEY QUESTION**
1. **WHAT** prevents us from knowing God?
  - 2.. **WHY** do we put off praying?

## RESOURCES

- **Presentation: Lesson 5**
- **2 worksheets (1. Wall filled in &**
- **2. Wall blank for students to fill in)**
- **Animation (slide 9)**
- **Prayer clip and linked slides (slides 21-22)**

The first clip in slide 5 is a good discussion starter. The animation on slide 9 is meant to be provocative - as in some of the attitudes depicted will be those of the students. It might be worth preparing for their questions before the lesson.

## INTERACTIVE:

You can give your class this link to the lesson after Learning 1  
This will lead them into the presentation where they can watch and the clips on their phones, laptops or tablets. If they do not have these you can easily lead that section from the front.

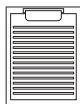
## RESISTANCE

THE AREAS COVERED ARE

1. MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT GOD
2. FAULTY THINKING
3. NO EVIDENCE/ CAN'T SEE GOD
4. UNANSWERED PRAYERS
5. THE IDEA OF RELIGION

One of these between two and then one each of the blank version.

## WORKSHEETS

[illegible]

**KEY BIBLE VERSE:** (Luke 22)

*"He came to seek and save the lost."*

The last slide is a short animation about being sought by God. Before this is played, you can make the point that anytime we are searching for God it is because he is already seeking us.

### CURRICULUM DIRECTORY:

1.6. REVELATION: APOLOGETICS 1.6.1. How can we know God exists? A Even without the Bible and Divine Revelation, we can know God really exists through reason and through experience. (36-39, 50, 156-159). 1.6.3. How can people say that God is good if suffering and evil are present in the world? A Suffering that exists in the world is not something caused by God or sent by God; God only brings about what is good for he is goodness itself. When there is evil and suffering, God does not cause it, but sometimes he does permit it for reasons we cannot now know or understand. (1500-1501) B Evil is a reality and a mystery. (309-314).

**A C N**

# REFLECTION ON “UNANSWERED PRAYERS”:



How can I pray to God when I am so disappointed in him? I am often angry at God because it feels like nothing I do ever works out. It feels hypocritical to then just go and tell God that everything is OK. Things aren't OK in my life!



**“First, amazing question. I am certain that your question arises from a heart that has been broken in some way. Please know of my prayers for you and for anyone reading this column who is suffering defeat at this moment. You are not alone. You have brothers and sisters in Christ, and you have a God who is on your side.**

Your question zeroes in on the most important issue we must face: Can we really trust God? The Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard believed this question was so vital that he put it forth in words like these: “It is not so important to know whether God exists or not; what is important is to know whether He is love or not.” As a Catholic, you know that God is love. Because you are in Christ, you know the story; you know that God has made his decision. He is on your side. And yet, what do we do when things crash around us? Do you know that you can take your tears to God? Do you know that he actually wants us to bring our broken hearts and broken dreams to him? We can get it out of our heads that God only wants us to tell him our good news. Our spiritual parents, the Jewish people, have given us an entire spiritual genre called Lamentation. This is the raw and honest cry of a people who cried out to God: “We thought you were on our side! Why have you forgotten your promises? Why have you abandoned us?” This book is in the Bible. That means that the Holy Spirit inspired these words of complaint. This means that it is clear that God does not merely want our praise; he wants our pain as well. These same prayers (as well as those found in the book of Psalms) show us how we can bring these complaints to God. First, they are honest. The authors of Sacred Scripture did not sugarcoat their pain or frustration. (“How long, O Lord? Will you forget your people forever?”) Rather, they trusted God enough to tell him the truth. You can begin by bringing God into your situation as it is. Second, while the Jews were strikingly aware of their present condition, they never forgot that God had blessed them in the past. In their prayer, they specifically praised God and thanked him for the good things they had received from him. In my experience, it is very easy to think that all that God has done in my life is instantly canceled\* out when I am in distress. The Bible reminds us that we must not forget that the God who has guided and cared for us in the past will continue guiding and caring for us today. In your prayer, be just as specific with your praise as you are with your pain. In this way, the “God, I’m so lonely” is eventually followed by “Thank you for giving me the friendship of my brother when I felt all alone last year.” Third, make an act of trust in God. It is important to remember that the act of trust is not in yourself or in fate or in the healing effect of time. Sometimes my prayer for the future centers\* around those three things. I say to myself: “I know if I just try harder, it’ll be better,” or “Things will start looking up. They’ve just got to. I’m a good person,” or “Someday this pain won’t sting as much. I’ll just wait until that day.” Remember, God is on your side. He is faithful even when we are not faithful. Because of this, we place our trust in him, not in ourselves or anything else. A great example of this is Psalm 3, a psalm of David. David was the king of Israel. He was the one chosen by God. And yet, he endured tremendous pain and betrayal. Psalm 3 is entitled (in my Bible) “Threatened but Trusting.” And the subscript that describes the occasion when David wrote this psalm is: “When David fled for his life from his son Absalom.” Here is a man who was trying to do God’s will (imperfectly), and his own son was chasing him down with thousands of troops. The Bible was not authored by individuals sitting in ivory towers, untouched by anguish, but by people who experienced the worst that life has to offer and still turned to God. You are chosen by God as well. You can do the same.”

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[AMERICAN SPELLING AS THE AUTHOR, FR MICHEAL SCHMITZ IS AMERICAN)

JESUS' MIRACLES  
ARE NOT MEANT  
TO BE TAKEN  
LITERALLY

Being a Christian  
is not all  
that demanding

RELIGION SHOULD  
BE A PRIVATE  
THING

FREEDOM IS  
DOING WHAT  
YOU WANT

FAITH IS ABOUT  
BEING A GOOD  
PERSON  
AND A BIT  
SPIRITUAL

Jesus' love and  
compassion meant  
that he let people  
do what they wanted

The disciples must  
have made up the  
resurrection

You don't have  
to make time for  
prayer - it's in your  
heart

YOU HAVE TO MAKE  
YOUR OWN DECISIONS.  
THERE AREN'T ANY  
OUTSIDE INFLUENCES  
REALLY.

SCIENCE AND  
RELIGION ARE  
INCOMPATIBLE

Jesus is no  
different to lots of  
other inspirational  
leaders in history

Only observation  
and experimentation  
can decide what  
is real

There isn't really a  
set right/wrong -  
it's what feels  
right at the time

There's no  
evidence for  
the resurrection

JESUS TAUGHT  
US HOW TO LIVE  
BUT WASN'T GOD

Jesus was just  
a good moral  
teacher

JESUS DIDN'T  
CLAIM TO  
BE GOD

SURELY I CAN BE A  
CHRISTIAN  
BY FOLLOWING MY  
CONSCIENCE ALONE?

GOD'S LOVE  
MEANS SIN  
DOESN'T REALLY  
MATTER

JESUS SEEMS A  
BIT BORING



