**Aid to the Church in Need:**

Notes for Teachers

**Pentecost Lesson & Extension Task**

**Overview:**

This is a KS3 lesson designed to link the story of Pentecost and the Great Commission to the work of ACN, and encourage pupils to reflect on how they can support this mission.

**Time:**

The lesson is designed to last 1 hour. However, the tasks contained can be extended through group discussion and writing activities or shortened by selecting certain aspects to focus on.

There is an extension task at the end of the lesson. The aim of this section is to allow deeper engagement in the work of ACN and further opportunities for students to extend their learning about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and their relevance in the mission of the Church today. Suitable for the classroom, group work and homework.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Know the Great Commission, story of Pentecost and Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
2. Explain how ACN is putting the Great Commission into practice
3. Support the work of ACN and live out the Great Commission in your own lives

**Section 48 Criteria References:**

Pupils are given opportunities to become religiously literate.

Teaching and resourcing promotes purposeful learning, enjoyment, progress and attainment of pupils.

Ongoing assessment strategies, such as questioning and inline plenaries, are used to set an appropriate level of challenge.

Pupils show signs of progress as individuals.

Pupils show their attainment in consolidation activities at the end of the lesson.

Examples of differentiated work are evident.

Pupils are given opportunities to become religiously literate.

Pupils reflect spiritually and think ethically and theologically.

High quality resources are used effectively to optimise learning for pupils.

Teachers’ resources ensure that pupils are given extensive opportunities to present their learning using a wide variety of forms of expression.

**Religious Education Directory Links:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **R8.1.3** | Consider the ways in which they could stand up for conscience in the face of unjust, coercive power in their own context. |
| **R9.2.2** | Compare their own and others’ responses to questions of belief in the importance of social justice. |
| **R9.3.2** | Consider ways in which they could be better disciples of Christ in the world today. |
| **R9.4.3** | Explore the work of organisations dedicated to peace, justice and reconciliation and consider in what ways they could support this work. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Lesson Title** | **Relevant Notes** |
| Slide 1 | Title. |
| Slide 2 | Learning Objectives. |
| Slides 3-4 | Information about ACN, the Great Commission and story of Pentecost. |
| Slide 5 | Slide can be left whilst explanation about highlighting bible texts is explained. |
| Slide 6-8 | Key texts highlighting and discussion. |
| Slide 9 | The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit given to the disciples. |
| Slide 10 | Group task in which pupils rearrange sentences to form a whole paragraph about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. You could put on a countdown timer to add a sense of urgency/competition to the class. |
| Slide 11-12  | The answers to the ‘silent sentences’ task. |
| Slide 13 | Since pupils will have done the ‘silent sentences’ task as a group, there is then an individual version of the answers for them to stick into their books.  |
| Slide 14 | Mini plenary focusing on Learning Objective 1. |
| Slide 15-17 | You may want to change the groups for this activity, so that pupils work with a variety of different people. They will need two colours each, a sheet of A3 paper and a case study per group.  |
| Slide 18 | Pupils present their case study back to the class. This task can easily be shortened or extended by hearing from only a few or every single group.  |
| Slide 19 | Pupils put into practice what they have learnt about the Great Commission, Pentecost, the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the work of ACN.  |
| Slide 20 | Summary of learning |
| Slide 21 | Final slide. |

Further Information for Teachers from ACN’s Persecuted and Forgotten Report. To order the report, please speak to your Community Fundraiser of order online here.

**Background Information**

**Persecution around the World**

The suffering of Christians in 2017 is unprecedented. ACN’s Persecuted and Forgotten? report includes the following important findings…

* In **China**, more than **2,000 churches and crosses were demolished** within just 12 months up to and including April 2016.
* In **Egypt**, it is **illegal to convert from Islam to Christianity**.
* In **Eritrea**, within one month – May 2017 – **122 Christians were arrested** during a government crackdown. 33 women were jailed in a prison notorious for torture.
* In **India**, **365 anti-Christian incidents were recorded during 2016** – **10 people were killed**, 145 were beaten and physically assaulted and 34 women – including nuns – were raped.
* In **Iran**, **saying Mass in the main language of Farsi** is not allowed. Priests are required to ask a Muslim attending a service to leave or else face possible arrest for alleged proselytism – seeking converts.
* In **Iraq’s Nineveh Plains**,**12,970 homes were damaged or destroyed** in Christian majority towns and villages during a 2½-year occupation by Daesh (ISIS). **120,000 people were displaced**.
* In northern **Nigeria’s Maiduguri diocese**, Islamist Boko Haram mass killing and other violence caused **1.8 million** to be **displaced**and **left 5,000 widows** and **15,000 orphans**.
* In **North Korea**, where there are reports of **public executions of Christians**, the faithful may number up to 500,000. They meet in groups of two or three and silently mouth prayers.
* In **Pakistan**, increasing acts of violence and hostility led Father James Channon, responsible for inter-faith cooperation, to say “Christians are experiencing their worst time in the country’s history”.
* In**Saudi Arabia**, **there are no churches as they are forbidden**. Public Christian worship is banned, as is the import of Bibles. Converting to Christianity is punishable by death.
* In **Sudan,** in the 12 months up to February 2017 the government gave notice of its intent to **destroy at least 25 churches**.
* In**Syria**, Syriac Orthodox Patriarch Aphrem II pleaded for help for Christians exiting en masse, admitting to**fears that one of the oldest Church communities was “on the way out”**.
* In**Turke**y, over the past five years at least **100 church properties have been seized**.