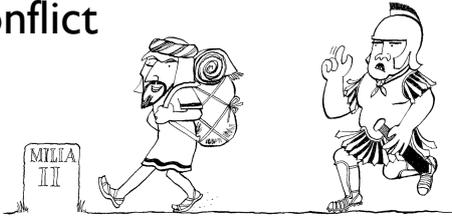


The work of Christian peacemaking

Lesson I: A Christian response to conflict



Starter

How do you deal with conflict?

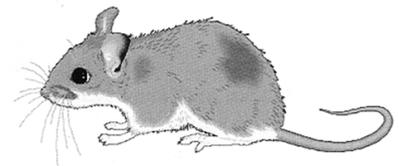
The **Animal Conflict Sheets** are displayed around the room. Each represents a way of responding to conflict. Students are to position themselves beside the one they think most closely matches their own behaviour. [Slide 2]

In pairs/small groups they consider: [Slide 3]

Why have you chosen your animal?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of this style of response?

Is this method likely to solve the problem?



Main Activities

Investigating the Scriptures

[You will need **Lesson I Teacher's pack** for these activities]

Matthew 5:38-41: Students should read this text and consider: what is Jesus' message here? [Slide 4 and 5]

Turn the other cheek: We are going to look at Walter Wink's interpretation of this passage. [Slide 6]

With two volunteers, talk through the role play. [Slide 7]

Give them your coat as well: Students should consider the reaction of people at the time of Jesus. [Slides 8 and 9]

They will also consider a modern day example, from South Africa, where nudity has been used as a form of protest. [Slide 10]

[Slide 10]

Walking the extra mile: Students to be presented with the Roman Law on this and will consider how they would react were they the soldier. [Slides 11 and 12]

Matthew 5:43-45: Students are given chance to read the passage. [Slide 13] What does it mean to love your enemies? [Slide 14]

[Slide 14]

Distribute copies of the six **Love your enemies stories** from the Teacher's pack around the class. Students are given three minutes with each of the stories. What do they teach us about loving our enemies? They are to add their own thoughts and reflections. [Slide 15] After three minutes swap with someone who has a different story. They may share their reflections at the end.

Plenary

What is Jesus teaching in these two passages?

Look back at your thoughts on this passage at the start of the lesson. Has your opinion changed? Why/Why not?

What do these stories tell us about how Christians should respond to conflict? [Slide 16]

Lesson Objectives

What: To examine Jesus' teachings on peace.
To examine how these teachings are to be lived out today.

How: To consider Bible texts in their original context.

You will need

Slideshow: A Christian Response to Conflict

Animal Conflict Sheets: these are displayed around the room

Lesson I: Teacher's pack