

## Pacifism: Practice and Practicality

<p><b>Curriculum Links</b></p> <p>Edexcel Paper 2: Religion and Ethics; Section 3.1: War and Peace</p>		<p>By examining the lives of Christian men and women who have resisted war and violence this lesson explores pacifism in its various forms. It examines their motivation, the effectiveness of their actions, and the limits to their pacifism.</p> <p>This lesson will enable students to understand different concepts of pacifism and the practicality of them.</p>	
<p><b>Starter Activity</b> The Christian attitude to war</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Students will explore their understanding of the Christian attitude to war and violence.</p> <p>Beginning by looking at the ideal – what Christians should think – students go on to reflect on the reality of living Christian witness in the modern world.</p>	<p><b>In detail</b></p> <p><b>[Slide 2]</b> In this first activity we will look at the Christian attitude to war and violence as understood by the students.</p> <p><b>[Slide 3]</b> In groups/pairs you will be given nine cards which give an opinion about how Christians <i>should</i> think/act in regard to war and violence.</p> <p><b>[Slide 4]</b> Sort these nine statements into a diamond ranking based on how strongly you agree with the statement – the one you agree with most will be at the top, the one you disagree with the most will be at the bottom.</p> <p><b>Feedback</b> – Invite the groups to share their ideas.</p> <p><b>[Slide 5]</b> We've been thinking about the ideal, <i>what should Christians do?</i> Would your order change if we reflect on the reality, <i>What do Christians actually do?</i></p>	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>Diamond Ranking cards from the Teachers' Pack. [As many sets as you have groups].</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>

We are going to look in detail at a particular Christian attitude to war and violence, *Christian Pacifism*.

**[Slide 6]** If we described Jordan as a *Christian Pacifist* what would that mean? Describe Jordan to me...

Think: Have you portrayed Jordan in a positive or negative light?

**[Slide 7]** In this lesson we are going to explore pacifism, what it is, and how it inspires people to act.

<p><b>Main Activity</b> Exploring Christian Pacifism</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Students will examine pacifism as Christian witness.</p> <p>By engaging with six case studies students will encounter a variety of forms of pacifism and consider the motivation for pacifism, and its effectiveness.</p>	<p><b>In detail</b></p> <p><b>[Slide 8]</b> Individually or in pairs we will look in detail at one of six examples of action by Christian pacifists. Record your answers to the questions posed at the end of the story.</p> <p>Each group will feedback on the profile they have been reading and their answers to the questions.</p> <p><b>Types of Pacifism</b></p> <p><b>[Slide 9]</b> Pacifists always have an aversion to violence although, as we have seen, it comes in various forms.</p> <p><b>[Slide 10]</b> What do you think <i>absolute pacifism</i> is? [Click for definition]</p> <p><b>[Slide 11]</b> What do you think <i>conditional pacifism</i> is? [Click for definition]</p> <p><b>[Slide 12]</b> What do you think <i>nuclear pacifism</i> is? [Click for definition]</p> <p><b>[Slide 13]</b> What do you think <i>active pacifism</i> is? [Click for definition]</p> <p><b>[Slide 14]</b> Which of these definitions best fits the characters we have seen profiled?</p> <p><b>[Slide 15]</b> As a class try to come to a consensus about which category each person fits into. <b>[Slide 16]</b> Stick their picture to the screen in the appropriate section.</p>	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>Profiles from the Teachers' Pack.</p> <p>Images of six profiled individuals from the Teachers Pack.</p>
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<p><b>Plenary</b></p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Some peace organisations prefer to avoid describing themselves as pacifist. In reflecting on their learning students will be able to say why this is the case.</p>	<p><b>In detail</b></p> <p><b>[Slide 17]</b> Nonviolence is a philosophy that is closely connected with pacifism.</p> <p><b>[Slide 18]</b> Provides a brief explanation of nonviolence.</p> <p><b>[Slide 19]</b> Shows Gandhi and Martin Luther King – two well-known advocates of the philosophy of nonviolence.</p> <p><b>[Slide 20]</b> Some peace organisations, including Pax Christi, prefer to describe themselves as <i>nonviolent</i> rather than <i>pacifist</i>. Why do you think this is?</p> <p>In answering this question students may be encouraged to think about how they described Jordan earlier in the lesson and compare that description to the profiles they looked at in the case studies.</p>	
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**More information**

This Religious Studies lesson has been produced by Pax Christi and Quaker Peace and Social Witness. For more education resources exploring war, peace, and the Christian conscience see [www.paxchristi.org.uk](http://www.paxchristi.org.uk) or [www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/peace/peace-education](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/peace/peace-education)

