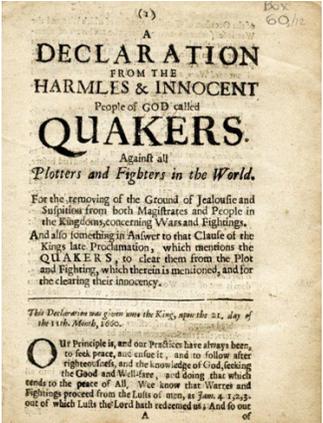


The Christian Contribution to Issues of War and Peace

<p>Curriculum Links</p> <p>Edexcel Paper 2: Religion and Ethics; Section 3.1: War and Peace</p>		<p>This lesson explores the contribution of Christian theology to issues of war and peace.</p> <p>By examining the major strands in Christian thinking on the issue, students will understand the historical context within which they developed, the scripture and theology that underpins them, and the ongoing influence these ideas have.</p>	
<p>Starter Activity Exploring the Scriptures</p>	<p>Overview</p> <p>This activity is based on the Quaker Peace Testimony of 1660.</p> <p>Individually or in pairs students are required to identify the three pieces of scripture they would use if trying to prove that their church was a peace church.</p> <p>Bibles can be provided. Scripture references are included in the teachers pack to provide further support.</p>	<p>In detail</p> <p>[Slide 2] 1660 is a year of political and religious turmoil in England. The monarchy has been re-established after the execution of Charles I and the Interregnum – when Oliver Cromwell ruled the nation. [Slide 3] Charles’s son, King Charles II, is on the throne and there is a clampdown on religious radicals who are perceived as a threat.</p> <p>[Slide 4] The Religious Society of Friends – the Quakers – had been recently established and wanted to stress that they were no threat to the King. [Slide 5] Having often found themselves imprisoned as dissenters, the Quakers – who would go on to be known as a Peace Church – issued a declaration stressing that, as men and women of peace, they represented no threat to the King. Their argument was rooted in scripture.</p> <p>[Slide 6] Individually or in pairs: Which three pieces of scripture would you use if you wanted to prove that your Christian Church was a Peace Church? Why?</p>	<p>Resources</p> <p>Slideshow</p> <p>Bibles</p> <p>Peace in Scripture resource sheet from Teachers’ Pack</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Quaker Declaration of 1660 © Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain</p> </div>

[Slide 7] The Quakers' peace testimony is one example of Christian Pacifism, one of the four major and influential strands of Christian thinking on war and peace that developed through the history of the Christian faith.

[Slide 8] The four strands are: **Christian Pacifism, Just War, Holy War, and World Community**

The remainder of the lesson will be spent examining these in more detail.

<p>Main Activity Christian thinking on War and Peace</p>	<p>Overview</p> <p>This activity looks in detail at the four main strands of Christian thinking concerning war and peace.</p> <p>By examining the scripture and theology underpinning these ideas students will understand when and why each came to dominate thinking, how they work in practice, their shortcomings, and the ongoing relevance of these ideas.</p>	<p>In detail</p> <p>[Slide 9] The class is split into four groups</p> <p>Each group is given a handout that focusses on one of the four themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Pacifism • Just War • Holy War • World Community <p>Using these handouts as the foundation of their research, each group will prepare a presentation on their theme to be given to the whole class.</p> <p>The presentation should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What the theme is • The scripture and theology that underpins the ideas • When it was at its most dominant and why • Key examples of the ideas in practice • Their impact beyond the Church • Practical applications today 	<p>Resources</p> <p><i>Christian Thinking on War and Peace</i> – handouts from the teachers' pack.</p> <p>Bibles</p> <p>Other resources to support research (access to internet, recommended texts etc)</p>
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<p>Plenary The Christian Attitude to War</p>	<p>Overview</p> <p>Having looked in detail at the four pre-eminent Christian responses to issues of war and peace, students will assess which they consider to be the most authentic.</p>	<p>In detail</p> <p>[Slide 10] You have examined the four pre-eminent themes in the Christian understanding of war and peace.</p> <p>Whilst each of these approaches had an historical era when it was dominant, all four have been influential throughout Church history and continue to be so today.</p> <p>[Slide 11] Which of these four responses do you consider to be the most authentically Christian and why?</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 or www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/peace/peace-education

This lesson borrows many of the ideas in the book War & the Christian Conscience: Where Do You Stand? by Joseph J. Fahey (Orbis 2005).

