

A Christen Response to Conflict

A GCSE Religious Studies Resource for: OCR: Page 49, AQA: Specification A 3.2.1.4 ,AQA: Specification B 3.2.2.2 Dialogue 2, Edexcel: Specification B 4.3

Learning Objective: *To examine Jesus' teachings on peace and to examine how these teachings are put into practice today by considering Bible texts in their original context*

1. Each of the following animals represents how you might respond to conflict or a disagreement. Which animal description do you think best represents how you would react in a disagreement?

Donkey: very stubborn and refuses to change their point of view.

Elephant: blocks the way, and stubbornly prevents the group from continuing along the road they desire to go.

Lion: gets in and fights whenever others disagree with them, or interfere with their desires.

Rabbit: runs away as soon as they sense tension, conflict, or any unpleasant job. This may mean switching quickly to another topic (flight behaviour).

Ostrich: buries their head in the sand and refuses to face reality or admit there is any problem at all.

Turtle: withdraws from the group, refusing to give ideas or opinions.

Chameleon: changes colour according to the people they are with. Will say one thing to this group and something else to another.

Owl: looks very solemn and pretends to be very wise, always talking in long words and complicated sentences.

Mouse: too timid to speak up on any subject.

Monkey: fools around, chatters, and prevents the group from concentrating on serious business.

2. What are the advantages of each response?
3. What are the disadvantages of each response?
4. Do you think there is an ideal way to respond to conflict?

5. Read this quote from the Bible, what do you think it is trying to say?

³⁸You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' ³⁹But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.
(Matthew 5:38-39)

6. We are now going to look a bit more at this passage from the Bible and its interpretation by a Bible scholar called Walter Wink. You will find this on the first page of the associated sheets (see below for more information). Read the first page of the associated sheets. Can you summarise what Walter Wink's interpretation is?

7. In the Gospel it also tells us:

⁴³You have heard that it was said, 'you shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:43-45)

What do you think this tells us about what it means to love your enemies?

8. Read the stories on next few pages of the associated sheets. For each story note down your thoughts on what it tells us about loving our enemy.

9. Look back at your thoughts on the Bible passages that you have looked at and the stories you have read. Have any of your opinions changed? Why/ Why not? What do you think these tell us about how Christians should respond to conflict?

The additional information for questions 6 and 8 can be viewed or downloaded from:

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/GCSE-CRC-Teachers-Pack.pdf> or by clicking on the associated 'Teacher's Pack' heading at the weblink below.

Further associated documents for this resource can be found at:

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-education/gcse-re/>

Credits: Animal Conflict Styles came from *Peacebuilding: a Caritas Training Manual*, (Vatican City, Caritas Internationalis, 2002) and was adapted from Anne Hope and Sally Timmel *Training for Transformation: a Handbook for Community Workers* (Mambo Press, Gweru, Zimbabwe, 1995)