



STUDENT LESSON PLANS

LESSON THREE: Our School Helps Us to Grow and Teaches Us to Act Justly

From the Aims of the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland*

Lessons for fifth/sixth classes with adaptable suggestions for use in special schools and classes.

Level 4

Strand: Word of God

- Understand how Sacred Scripture is taught and handed on in the living tradition of the Church.

Strand: Christian Morality

- Develop their understanding of factors that call for, influence and promote moral behaviour.
- Develop an awareness of social justice, ecological justice, universal solidarity and responsibility.
- Examine the relationship between Jesus' example, Christian moral values and contemporary culture.
- Explore how Christians' relationship with Jesus, their beliefs and values affect their words and actions, as exemplified in their lives.
- Develop their understanding of the Church as a community of faith.

Teacher Notes

This lesson focuses on how Catholic schools are called to help pupils to grow as individuals and as Christians, in particular how to act and live justly in our world. The lesson will focus on a quote from the Bible. The quote from Micah (6:8) tells us how we should live and the lesson will then move on to allow pupils to see how they are already learning to live out this command or how they could do so.

Introduction

Begin the lesson by reminding pupils that our school is a Catholic school and in this lesson we will be exploring how our school as a Christian community helps us to grow and teaches us to act justly in the world.



Read the quote from Micah to the pupils or display it on the IWB. Ask pupils what they think it means.



Break down the quote word by word with pupils to help decipher what it means and what God is asking of us:

Act: To do or behave.

Just: To be fair or upright; to do what is right.

Mercy: To forgive or show compassion.

Walk: To move forward in steps.

Humble: Not viewing yourself as better than others.

In summary, the quote from Micah tells us that God is pleased when we act or behave in a fair and forgiving way.

Development

To develop the lesson, distribute the lesson three activity page and allow pupils to work in pairs to come up with ways that we already live out the words of Micah in our school. This could be:

- **Acting justly** by raising money for charities like Trócaire or listening to both sides of a disagreement and trying to help people solve the issue.
- **Showing mercy** by forgiving people for things they do wrong because we all make mistakes or helping others or sharing with others in school who need our support.
- **Walk humbly** by helping someone that is struggling without expecting anything in return or by loving people as they are or by accepting our own limitations and imperfections.

Conclusion

To conclude the lesson, ask pupils if they can think of any other ways that the school as a Christian community could live out the words of Micah.

A list of suggestions can be fed into the overall CSP process.






SECTION ONE

SCHOOL RESOURCES

LESSON THREE: OUR SCHOOL HELPS US TO GROW AND TEACHES US TO ACT JUSTLY

ACTIVITY PAGE

How do we live out the words of Micah in our school?		
		
Act Justly	Love Mercy	Walk Humbly
Can you think of any other ways we can live out the words of Micah in our school?		



SUGGESTIONS FOR LESSON ADAPTION

Special Education Guidelines

Strand: Christian Morality

- Have an awareness of belonging to a 'class' or to a 'group'.

Attending The child should be enabled to:	Responding The child should be enabled to:	Initiating The child should be enabled to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participate in turn taking activities/games • become aware of rules in the school and community that may concern him/her 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participate in activities that require everyone to give and share something • observe appropriate school and community rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • care for and cooperate with each other • independently observe community and school rules

Pupils Attending

Read the Scripture quote from Micah and use the flash cards (either with the language of the quote or the simplified version below) to illustrate and explain to pupils how the quote is asking us to live.



Pupils Responding

Introduce the picture-only flash cards corresponding to the Scripture piece. Explore what the pictures mean with pupils and allow pupils to take it in turns to hold up or point to a picture which corresponds to the three key actions in the Scripture piece.

Pupils Initiating

Read the Scripture piece with pupils. Read the piece a second time and use the flash cards to highlight the key action words with pupils. Ask the pupils to identify things we do in school each day to live out these words from the Bible.



Be Fair



Love and Forgive



Be Gentle





Act Justly



Love Mercy



Walk Humbly





SECTION ONE

SCHOOL RESOURCES

