

Year 5&6 Key Stage 2



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File

Year 6 units of work - Race and diversity - Rosa Parks





Lesson 3 Rosa Parks

The big picture

This lesson looks at how the actions of one woman sparked off the beginning of the American Civil Rights Movement. Rosa Parks was a Christian who was weary of being treated as a second class citizen because of the colour of her skin. In this lesson people in the class will hear the story of Rosa Parks and write an interview with her.

Learning objective

Learning about:

- To describe how the Christian beliefs of Rosa Parks might have influenced the way she chose to behave.

Learning from:

- To describe what inspired and influenced Rosa Parks in her fight against racial injustice in America.

Success criteria

Learning about:

- Pupils will have explained how Christian beliefs support the actions that Rosa Parks took in beginning the bus boycott.

Learning from:

- Pupils will have explained what inspired and influenced Rosa Parks in her fight against racial injustice.

Religious education council requirements

Resources

- **Interactive CD resource page 17:** 'Civil rights leaders'
- **Resource sheet 3:** 'The Montgomery bus boycott'
- Spare chairs

Vocabulary

Boycott, Christian, civil rights, equal rights, injustice, race, segregation

Key questions ?

What inspired Rosa Parks?

Introduction

Arrange a set of six chairs in pairs as if on a bus. Choose six people to sit down on the bus, ensuring that the two people sitting on the back two seats have similar physical attributes, for example, blonde hair. Explain to the class that the bus is travelling along at the end of the day and that it stops at the next bus stop. Ask two people to get on the bus who do not have the same physical attribute as the two people on the back two seats. Explain to the two people at the back that they must give up their seats and stand up for the rest of the journey because they have blonde hair. Discuss people's feelings about the re-enactment.

Introduce the learning objective: 'In this lesson you will learn how one person chose to take a stand against racial injustice and how her action began a chain of events that changed America. You will have a chance to consider what motivated her to act and consider what you would have done in the same situation.'

Activities

Stimulus

Tell the class the story of Rosa Parks (**Resource sheet 3**) and show them the portrait on page 17 of the Interactive CD resource.

Choose three people to play the main characters in the story: Rosa Parks, the man on the bus and the bus driver. Allow them time to sit and discuss how they might feel, how they reacted and behaved as they did on the bus. Ask the rest of the class to get together with a partner and write questions that they would like to ask either Rosa Parks, the man on the bus or the bus driver. Encourage them to write questions that address the characters' feelings and motivation, especially why, as a Christian, Rosa Parks felt it was important to stand up for her rights.

Ask the class to think of any Bible quotes that Rosa Parks might have been inspired by.

Hot-seat the characters.

Explain to the class that the Civil Rights Movement was led by Martin Luther King and that the movement eventually attained equal rights for black people in America, but that Martin Luther King was assassinated in 1968.

Response

Ask the class to choose to write an interview with either Rosa Parks, the man on the bus or the bus driver. Ask them to set the interview in modern times, allowing the three interviewees to reflect on the results of the Civil Rights Movement.

Key questions ?

Do people think that the man on the bus or the bus driver would now regret their actions? Do they think the rules were wrong? Would Rosa Parks think that she behaved correctly? What would she think about racism in the world today?

Ask people to present their work as a magazine interview, beginning with a paragraph explaining the story of the Montgomery bus boycott.

Plenary

Share some of the best and most insightful questions and answers written by people in their interviews.

Ask the class to put themselves in the position of the man on the bus, the bus driver and Rosa Parks. How do they think they would have reacted? You might like to use the following sentence starters:

- If I was the man on the bus I would have... because...
- If I was the bus driver I would have... because...
- If I was Rosa Parks I would have... because...

Differentiation

(By task) less able people could either write a collaborative magazine article or answer a pre-prepared set of questions as either Rosa Parks, the man on the bus or the bus driver.

Extension

More able people could source quotes from the Bible that support the position taken by Rosa Parks.



Name:

Date:

The Montgomery bus boycott

The Montgomery bus boycott started officially on the 1 December 1955. On that day Rosa Parks got on the bus, tired after a long day as a seamstress. When she boarded the bus she sat with three other black people on the fifth row of the bus. The fifth row was the first row of the bus that black people were allowed to sit in. After a few stops the bus had filled up and the first four rows were full.

Several white men came on to the bus. The driver asked the black people to move as it was illegal for black and white people to sit on the same row. Whilst the other three black people complied with the request, Rosa Parks refused. She was arrested.

It is difficult to say why Rosa Parks refused to move on that day. She was tired but no more tired than usual. Many years





Name:

Date:

before, she had been made to get off a bus and re-enter through the back door, then before she got to the back door the bus drove off. Rosa had recently attended a course on race relations. Rosa was a Christian woman who believed in both the example preached by Jesus and the non-violent protest used by Gandhi.

The case of Rosa Parks became the beginning of the Montgomery bus boycott. Leaflets were given out asking black people to stay off the buses on the day of

Rosa Parks' court case. Despite pressure and even violence against them, black people stayed off the buses. Over a year after the beginning of the boycott, segregation on the buses was declared illegal and black people returned to the buses.

There were many victories still to be won, and black people continued to work for equal rights for many more years.