

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hello Year 6!

Our new topic for the remaining of this half term is **Justice and Freedom**.

We will be reading a range of stories from different world religions to examine the concepts of justice and freedom. We will also be learning about how key figures in history such as Martin Luther King and Aung Suu Kyi were informed and influenced by their beliefs. To conclude, we will examine the impact of different religions and non-religions ideas about the formation of the Non-Violent Protest and Human Rights Movements.



We hope that you enjoy this final topic.

Miss Arnold and Ms Berry

Lesson 3

Today we will be examining the concept of justice. By the end, we hope that you feel confident in explaining the different concepts of justice.

Have a look through PowerPoint **Yr6 RE su2 wk3 presentation**. You'll be reading the Christian story of the *Adulterous Woman* and asked to reflect on two questions.



When you're ready, move onto to reading the two stories on the following pages: *The Story of the Exodus* and *The Dog King Silver*.

Activity: After reading the stories, **reflect on and answer the following questions:**

1. Was justice done in these stories?
2. For whom?
3. Was the focus on fairness and reasonableness similar in the stories or different?

The Dog King Silver

A Buddhist Story about Justice.



Once, the King of Benares had a fancy decorated chariot, which he loved mostly because of the rich hand-worked leather belts and straps.

On this occasion the chariot was left outside in the compound all night, instead of being locked up properly.



During the night the pampered palace dogs smelled the delicious leather scent, came down into the compound and chewed off the soft, wet chariot straps.

They returned unseen to their places in the palace.



When the King woke up and came down, he saw that the leather had been chewed off and eaten by dogs. He called the servants and demanded to know how this happened. Since they were supposed to watch the palace dogs, the servants were afraid to blame them. Instead, they made up a story that stray dogs, the mutts and mongrels of the city, had come into the grounds and eaten the fancy leather.

The King flew into a terrible rage and decreed that whenever anyone in the city saw a dog, he was to kill him or her at once! The people began killing dogs. The dogs could not understand why suddenly they were being killed. Later that day, they learned of the King's decree.

They became very frightened and retreated to the cemetery just outside the city. This was where their leader lived, the Dog King Silver.

Silver was King not because he was the biggest, or strongest, or toughest. He was average in size, with sleek silver fur, sparkling black eyes and alert pointed ears. He walked with great dignity, that brought admiration and respect from men as well as dogs. In his long life he had learned much, and was able to concentrate his mind on what is most important. So he became the wisest of all the dogs, as well as the one who cared most for the others. Those were the reasons he was King of Dogs.



In the cemetery, the dogs were in a panic and the Dog King Silver asked them why this was. They told him all about the chariot straps and the King's decree, and the people killing them whenever they saw them. King Silver knew there was no way to get into the well-guarded palace grounds. So he understood that the leather must have been eaten by the dogs living inside the palace.

He comforted them by saying, "Do not be afraid. I will save you all. Stay here in the cemetery and don't go into the city. I will tell the King of Benares who are the thieves and who are the innocent. The truth will save us all."



Then, the Dog King Silver began walking slowly through the streets of Benares. His mind was focused, he had no fear. Because of his long life of goodness, he walked with a calm dignity that demanded respect. And, because of the warm glow of loving-kindness that all the people sensed, no one felt the rising of anger or any intention to harm him. Instead, they marvelled as the Great Being passed, and wondered how it could be so!

It was as if the whole city were entranced. With no obstruction, the Dog King Silver walked right past the palace guards, into the royal hall of justice, and sat down calmly underneath the King's throne itself! The King of Benares was impressed by such courage and dignity. So when servants came to remove the dog, he ordered them to let him remain.

Then, the Dog King Silver came out from under the throne and faced the mighty King of Benares. He bowed respectfully and asked, "Your majesty, was it you who ordered that all the dogs of the city should be killed?"

"It was I," replied the King.

"What crime did the dogs commit?" asked the Dog King.

"Dogs ate my rich beautiful chariot leather and straps."

"Do you know which dogs did this?" asked King Silver.

"No one knows," said the King of Benares.



"My Lord," said the dog, "for a King such as you, who wishes to be righteous, is it right to have all dogs killed in the place of the few guilty ones? Does this do justice to the innocent ones?" The King replied, as if it made perfect sense to him, "Since I do not know which dogs destroyed my leather, only by ordering the killing of all dogs can I be sure of punishing the guilty. The King must have justice!"

The Dog King Silver paused for a moment, before challenging the King with the crucial question - "My Lord King, is it a fact that you have ordered all dogs to be killed, or are there some who are not to be killed?" The King suddenly became a little uneasy as he was forced to admit, before his whole court, "It is true that most dogs are to be killed, but not all. The fine pure-breeds of my palace are to be spared."

Then the Dog King said, "My Lord, before you said that all dogs were to be killed, in order to insure that the guilty would be punished. Now you say that your own palace dogs are to be spared. This shows that you have gone wrong in the way of prejudice. For a King who wishes to be righteous, it is wrong to favour some over others. The King's justice must be unbiased, like an honest scale. Although you have decreed an impartial death to all dogs, in fact this is only the slaughter of poor dogs. Your rich palace dogs are unjustly saved, while the poor are wrongly killed!"

The Story of Exodus



When Moses was born, the Hebrews were slaves in Egypt. Pharaoh was afraid of them because he thought they might take over his country. He ordered his soldiers to kill all the baby boys at birth so they would not grow up and fight him.



To save Moses, his mother made a plan. She put him in a basket and set him adrift on the River Nile and left his fate to God's will.



Moses floated down the river where the Pharaoh's daughter found him and rescued him. She brought him back to the palace and raised him as a son.



Moses grew up in the palace as a royal prince. One day, he lost his temper and killed an Egyptian who had beaten a Hebrew slave to death. He had to flee to another land.



He lived in the land of Midian and worked as a shepherd for forty years. One day, when he was in the desert, Moses heard the voice of God from a burning bush. God asked Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land.



Moses went back to Egypt and asked the Pharaoh to free his people. Pharaoh did not want to lose his slaves so he refused. God unleashed ten plagues on the Egyptians.



It was the tenth plague that finally made the Pharaoh let them go. The eldest son in every family, including the Pharaoh's, died.

The Hebrews marked their doorposts with lamb's blood so that they would be safe. The Hebrews fled but soon after, the Pharaoh changed his mind and sent his army after them.



The army chased the Hebrews to the banks of the Red Sea, where they were trapped. God told Moses to lift up his rod and so he did. The waters parted to make a dry path.



When all the Hebrews were safely at the other shore, Moses raised up his rod again and the water closed on the Pharaoh's army who had been chasing them. God saved the Hebrews.

Even though the Hebrews were free, they were still in the desert. They wanted to find a land called Canaan which God had promised them.



The journey was very long and they soon ran out of food. They were hungry and blamed Moses for taking them out of Egypt. Moses told them that God would provide food.

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The next day, the ground was covered with a white food that tasted like honey. God also sent a flock of birds called quails, which they cooked and ate.

When their water ran out, God told Moses to strike a rock with his rod. As he did, water rushed out and they all had enough to drink.



After three months of travelling, the Hebrews arrived at the foot of mount Sinai. God called Moses to meet him at the top of the mountain. As he climbed up, there was a thunderstorm.



At the top of the mountain, God gave Moses ten laws which told the people how to live.

These Ten Commandments were written on two stone tablets.



Moses was gone for a very long time, and the people waiting at the foot of the mountain grew impatient. They decided to make themselves another god to worship. It was a golden calf.

Then Moses returned to find the people worshipping the calf he was very shocked. He broke the tablets God had given him and destroyed the calf. God forgave the people for worshipping the statue and told Moses to cut two more tablets of stone.



Moses took the stone tablets up the mountain and God gave him the Ten Commandments again. When he came down, all the people listened to Moses as he told them what God had said.

Moses promised God that the Hebrews would keep all of the commandments.