

## Year 6 Summer Term

What do Christians believe about their relationship between humans, their environment and other living creatures?

(PoS 2.20,2.22)

AT2 (Level 4) Ask questions about matters of right and wrong and suggest answers, which show understanding of moral and religious teachings.

Today we're going to think about what Christians believe about how they should treat the world we live in, God's world and the people in it.

1. Christians believe God made the world.

Write the 8 letters of the word CREATION on 8 pieces of paper and display them on the board. What does the word make the pupils think of.

Give out the letters of the word CREATION; can the children make a 3-word phrase from the letters? (Rearrange the letters to spell I CARE NOT.) Ask pupils to discuss ways in which our world is being spoiled today.

2. Christians believe they have a responsibility to look after God's world and the people in it.

Ask if the children have ever made anything special. Where /how have they kept it? How would they feel if someone else mistreated what they had created? In the biblical account of Creation, God asks Adam to look after the world. He gives him (mankind), the job of taking care of God's world. (Genesis Ch 2 verses 15-20.)

'Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.' (James 2:17)  
The letter of James has strong warnings for those who call themselves Christians and yet do nothing about people living in poverty.

Last year, 2005, was a special year when a few people came up with a big idea to try to change the world. The Make Poverty History campaign tried to change the world we live in. Bob Geldof and U2's Bono led it. Their big idea was basically to get everyone to campaign for justice for some of the poorest people in the world. They introduced the use of the white wristband to raise awareness of their campaign. Many of you will have bought and worn a white wristband. But can you remember what it was for? Who wrote these words 'Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly (with your God)'?

Not Bob Geldof, not Bono or Nelson Mandela but it was God, more than 2000 years ago. (Micah 6:7,8 What does the Lord ask of me? Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.)

So what can we do?

Work in small groups

(Note: We have a limited number of copies of The Red Independent newspaper and also copies of the Community Fund Newsletter available for loan. You could substitute information about another similar charity or visit a website such as [www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/kidsweb/index.htm](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/kidsweb/index.htm))

1. Look at copies of the Red Independent edited by Bono on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2006. Look carefully through the newspaper.

What is the front-page news? What does the symbolism on the front-page mean?

Can you find articles that talk about poverty?

Can you find articles about how people can make a difference to the world we live in?

How many adverts for charities can you find?

2. Look at The Philippine Community Fund newsletter.

Where is this?

What sort of homes do the children live in? Where?

What does the newsletter describe?

Make a list of how these children's lives differ from yours?

How much does it cost to sponsor a child through this charity?

How does sponsoring a child change that child's life?

3. Let's look at Poverty. (See poverty activity below) Look at the cards you have been given. Can you sort them into two piles - one containing all the things they consider to be the rights of every human in the world, the other consisting of all the privileges (i.e. not everyone entitled to). A third pile may be required if the group cannot agree.

Spend a few minutes feeding back information:

Think about: What can I do?

There are lots of small things we can do. For example:

Giving to charity shops, living more simply, buying fair trade goods, looking after other people and taking care of our planet's resources (recycling).

"This is not about charity, it's about justice."

Bono, September 2004

Listen to Feed the World Band Aid 20

Think about what we can do?

"Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly (with your God.)"

Band Aid Lyrics - Do They Know Its Christmas Lyrics

recorded on November 25, 1986

It's Christmastime  
There's no need to be afraid  
At Christmastime, we let in light and we banish shade  
And in our world of plenty we can spread a smile of joy  
Throw your arms around the world at Christmastime

But say a prayer

Pray for the other ones  
At Christmastime it's hard, but when you're having fun  
There's a world outside your window  
And it's a world of dread and fear  
Where the only water flowing is the bitter sting of tears  
And the Christmas bells that ring there are the clanging  
chimes of doom  
Well tonight thank God it's them instead of you

And there won't be snow in Africa this Christmastime  
The greatest gift they'll get this year is life  
(Oooh) Where nothing ever grows  
No rain nor rivers flow  
Do they know it's Christmastime at all?

(Here's to you) raise a glass for everyone  
(Here's to them) underneath that burning sun  
Do they know it's Christmastime at all?

Feed the world  
Feed the world

Feed the world

Let them know it's Christmastime again

Feed the world  
Let them know it's Christmastime again

repeat then fade

(Bob Geldof & Midge Ure)

### Poverty activity

In the center of the group scatter 20 file cards with the following written on them:

- free time at some point in the day
- special help, if disabled
- freedom to worship in any way
- primary school for boys
- primary school for all
- secondary school
- a way of making a living
- shoes
- a name
- happiness
- a telephone
- computer access
- vaccination against preventable diseases
- a local doctor
- a bed
- breakfast
- antiretroviral drugs, if HIV-positive
- clean water from a tap in your home town
- clean water from a tap in your own home
- new clothes