

How Christians think about the Bible

Introduction

Talk about similes and how they liken one thing to another. What someone is likened to tells us something about them. For example 'Holly swims like a fish'. We know from this that Holly is a good swimmer. Ask pupils to create their own similes. Similes are one form of word-image. Word-images build pictures in our minds that help our understanding. Metaphors are like similes but they describe one thing as another: 'You're a treasure.'

Bring in some edible leaves used in cooking. (They will not be eaten but should still be safe.) Explain that some medicines are made from herbs, but it takes a trained person to choose the right leaves to make medicines, as some leaves are poisonous. (Health and safety warnings can be issued here.)

The writers of the King James Bible used a word-picture to describe the Bible. They said: 'It is not an herb, but a tree . . . and the leaves for medicine'. They described it as leaves for healing – in fact a whole tree full of healing leaves! Christians believe that the words of the Bible do not heal by themselves. They believe God speaks through the words and the words have to be put into practice. In the Bible, the greatest cure (medicine) for the wrongs of the world is love.

Select from the following activities:

1. Explore healing

Explore some of the different types of healing. Choose as much or as little as is appropriate for your pupils.

You may wish to do this using the Herb Tree presentation. Using the **Herb tree presentation for smart board** the 'leaves' can be moved and added to branches to illustrate what brings about different types of healing. Pupils decide which leaves go on the branches. Some could go on more than one. Pupils can move them if they can supply reasons. Using the **Herb tree ppt** the leaves will automatically move to the branches.

- Healing/mending bodies through medicine and also, as many Christians believe, through God acting directly sometimes (Christians differ over this). The Bible contains stories of people



being healed directly, particularly by Jesus.

- Healing the relationship with God. Christians believe that Jesus came to mend the friendship with God, giving people a fresh start.
- Healing hurt feelings by gentleness, justice, love, etc.
- Relationships can be healed by forgiveness, putting things right and right behaviour (kindness, love, etc.).
- Healing/mending communities by bringing love, justice and peace and the right use of money.

2. Pass the basket

As a class, pass a basket of herb quotes (from **Herb quotations**) around to music. The quotes can be put on leaf shapes and placed in a basket. Select quotes from those supplied that are appropriate for your class and fit with the aspects of healing you are exploring. When the music stops one pupil pulls out a quote and

reads it. Together work out how these words might heal if practised or believed. For example, would they comfort someone who was feeling upset? Are they about mending the friendship with God? Would they help mend communities by reminding people to bring peace and justice? Record the results and use to create a display.

3. Display

Create a herb tree display. Using **Herb tree** enlarge the outline of the tree and add the quotes on leaves. Either use the leaf template or pupils can draw their own leaves.

4. Drama

Create scenarios for different sorts of healing. Pupils can write about the different types of healing on the medicine bottle outline. See **Bottle template**.

Reflection

Give pupils a circle to represent the world. What in our world needs mending? If they could heal the world of one thing, what would it be? Pupils can write or draw their responses on the circles. Add circles to the display.