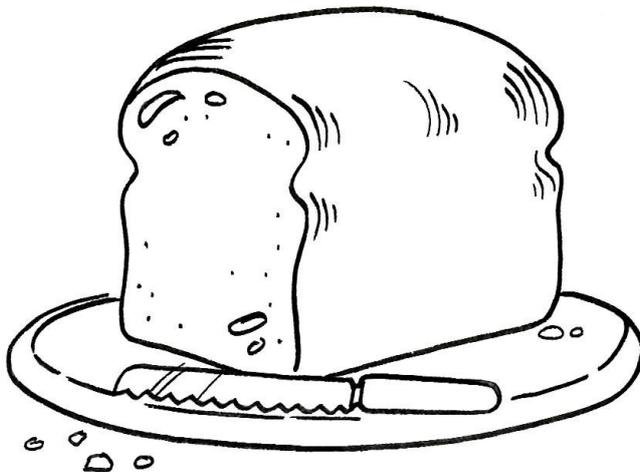


How Christians think about the Bible

Introduction

Talk about similes and how they liken one thing to another. What someone is likened to tells us 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 describe one thing as another to make a point: 'You're a real treasure'.

Bring in different types of bread and discuss what foods we need to grow. Explain that the writers of the King James Bible, and Christians in general described the Bible as being like food that helps people to grow as Christians. That means growing in love, justice, peace and friendship with God.



Select from the following activities:

1. The bread basket

The writers of the preface to the King James Bible in 1611 described the Bible as a whole 'Panary (bread basket) of wholesome food'. This communicates why the Bible is important for Christians. Christians believe that the teaching of the Bible helps them to grow as Christians. That included growing in qualities such as love, patience and wisdom. It is about growing in friendship with God, and in service of others. Explore this idea with pupils using **The bread basket** and the **Food quotations**.

The Bible itself likens God's Word (found in the Bible) to food.

- People do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from God. Matthew 4:4
- Do not work for food that goes off, work for food that lasts forever. John 6:27
- Your words (God) . . . are sweeter than honey. Psalm 19:10

2. Create a display

Create a display to look like a bread basket. See **The bread basket**. Add quotations from **Food quotations**. These can be mounted on pictures of bread (see 3). Pupil comments and questions can be added. See <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Bread> for pictures of bread.

3. Create bread pictures

Pupils select a quotation from **Food quotations**. These can be mounted onto pictures of bread. See <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Bread>. Pupils write how these quotations might help a Christian to 'grow' in their faith and service of others.

4. Questions and responses

Pupils can email believers with their questions and by contacting a local church for responses from Christians or visiting <http://pof.reonline.org.uk/emailproject/index.php> where the 'email a believer' facility can be used for Christian responses. Questions and responses can be added to the display.

5. Speaking to today

Pupils choose a quotation that they think has a message for people today and say why it is an important message and how it might help a person today 'grow' in some way.

Reflection

Share some bread as a class. (Provide alternatives for those who cannot eat it.) We don't forget to feed our bodies but we are not just bodies. We also have minds and emotions that need a different sort of 'food'. Christians would say people also have a spiritual aspect of their being and that too needs 'feeding'.

