

## WHAT WOULD JESUS DO? CAN WE LIVE BY THE VALUES OF JESUS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY?

Curriculum Subject - RE

### Summary

Within a more in depth study of Christianity, you will consider some teachings of Jesus and the ways they are applied today.

You will consider examples of what Jesus said, and how Christians today respond to the challenge of his teachings.



### Facts

1. A mission statement is a formal summary of the aims and values of a company, organisation or individual. The passage in the bible Luke 4:18-19 is sometimes referred to as Jesus' mission statement.
2. Around the world, Christians try to put Jesus' mission statement into action through a variety of charitable acts and sharing their ideas about the good news of God.
3. Many of Jesus' teachings challenged and continue to challenge e.g. 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'.
4. Christians believe that the love of God is the greatest treasure. Love is an important part of not only weddings and Saint Valentine's Day but also Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.
5. Forgiveness is theme of many of Jesus' parables e.g. The Two Debtors. Jesus taught, amongst other things, that we all need forgiveness but those of us who need it most may be the most grateful and that a thankful response to God's forgiveness is to give forgive others who do wrong to us.
6. Mother Teresa was famous as a nun and missionary, who devoted much of her life to caring for the sick and poor. She saw this as following Jesus' teachings and she is often used as an example of someone who 'followed Jesus well'.
7. WWJD or 'What Would Jesus Do', is a phrase popularised in the United State of America in the 1990's. There are a number of organisations that use its principles as a guide for behaviour and a standard for living well.

### Questions We Will Ask

1. What is the importance of the value of love? How did Jesus teach his followers to love?
2. What do Jesus' parable about forgiveness teach to Christians today and how do Christians try to follow Jesus' teaching about justice and fairness?
3. What did Jesus teach about being generous and being greedy?
4. What does the teaching of Jesus have to say about some problems people face today? What would Jesus do?
5. What have we learned about living by the values of Jesus in the modern world?

### Key Vocabulary

**Mission statement** a summary of the aims and values of a organization, or individual.

**Disciple** A follower of Jesus in his lifetime

**Parable** A story told by Jesus

**Temptation** A desire to do something un-wise

**Pentecost** A Christian festival celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit after Easter