What should I already know?

* Be able to discuss what matters the most in different religions.
* Be able to discuss how I can contribute to making the world a better place.

Key Vocabulary and Definitions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Agape | universal and unconditional love, such as the love for strangers, nature, or God |
| Messiah | a saviour from God prophesied about in the Old Testament and Jewish Scriptures. |
| salvation | the saving of human beings from sin and its consequences—which include death and separation from God—by Christ's death and resurrection |
| resurrection | the event told about in the Bible in which Jesus Christ returned to life after his death. |
| Incarnation | a particular physical form or state |
| Eternal | lasting or existing forever |
| Eternity | the quality or state of being eternal |
| covenant | a usually formal, solemn, and binding agreement |

RE Skills:

|  |
| --- |
| This enquiry focusses on the Christian understanding of eternity and the Christian belief that God’s love for humankind is eternal in that God will never stop loving humanity. |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Teaching Sequence

1. To explain why I think some things will last forever and what I mean by that
2. To discuss different types of love and whether they may be able to last for ever
3. To discuss the Christian beliefs in heaven and what actions a Christian might take to obtain eternal life
4. To discuss the Christian beliefs in forgiveness and eternal life and how this might motivate a Christian to do good.
5. To explain what a Christian might learn from the Bible about eternal life and how this might impact their daily lives.

Blooms Taxonomy – Specific Verbs to Use in Lesson Aims

Knowledge: Describe, find, identify, list, locate, name, recognise, retrieve Comprehension: Classify, compare, explain, infer, interpret, paraphrase, summarise Application: Carry out, implement, use Analysis: Deconstruct, Organise, outline, structure Synthesis: Construct, design, devise, invent, make, plan, produce, Evaluation: Appraise, assess, choose,

Key Knowledge

Christianity - **Is anything ever eternal?**

This enquiry focusses on the Christian understanding of eternity and the Christian belief that God’s love for humankind is eternal in that God will never stop loving humanity.

Some Christians refer to this Godly love as agape (pronounced a-ga-pay). Agape is universal and unconditional love, such as the love for strangers, nature, or God. It does not depend on the familiarity of the people involved. It is also called charity, as in St Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians 13:13 which are often used in weddings;

*“and now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity”.*

Agape can be said to encompass the modern concept of altruism, defined as unselfish concern for the welfare of others.

This also links closely with the Christian concept of salvation. God sent Jesus to humanity to die and to be resurrected to allow man to have a pathway back to God where he can live with God for eternity.

Bible references to eternal life, or heaven, found in Jesus’ teaching show that twice in John 14:1-6, he uses the Greek word ‘topos’, which is translated as “place.” For example, he says,

*“I go to prepare a place for you.”*

In the ancient language in which the New Testament was written, ‘topos’ refers to a real, physical place. Furthermore, Jesus uses physical references like “rooms” and “house” to describe where the Father lives. This leads to the Christian belief in Heaven as a real place people can go when they die.

Under the Covenant (God’s promise) in the Old Testament, no one went to Heaven when they died. Entering into Heaven required that a human’s sins be fully atoned for and that human is made perfect. Christians believe that was the salvation that Jesus created when he died on the cross. Jesus opened the way to Heaven and, when somebody says they are sorry for any wrongdoing, Jesus forgives them. (2 Corinthians 5:20). Christians believe it is Jesus’ sacrifice of salvation that makes a forgiven sinner perfect in the eyes of God and then they can enter heaven where they can live eternally being loved by and loving God.