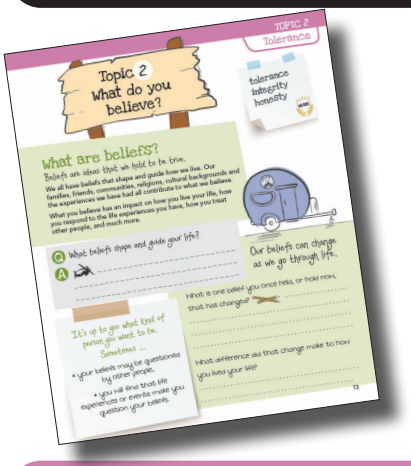
VALUE
tolerance

Topic 2 – What do you believe?

Learning Intention – Hey, why this lesson?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO 'BELIEVE'?



To understand that your beliefs in God and in the teachings of Jesus Christ will be challenged by others (and maybe by you) at various times in your life. Are you sick of people not listening to or believing your opinions? Maybe it has to do with 'how you deliver' your beliefs. You need more than just 'FAITH' in your beliefs, you need to be sure what they are and how you live them!

Hint: There will be a need to convince the students how knowing, living and delivering what they believe, is important.

Scripture

He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

– Matthew 17:20

As well as completing the activity on page 15, discuss with the students 'And nothing will be impossible for you.' Many years ago flight, space travel –even wi-fi – would have been deemed as impossible. What do they think may be the next 'impossible' that may be achieved? Who has achieved what previously have been considered 'impossible'? For instance Nick Vujicic, Bethany Hamilton, Billy Monger etc.

ACARA Connection English RE Key Understanding

Connect to your own State/ Territory's key understandings of Religious Education e.g. Christian Living, Religion and Society

Year 7 & 8 Content Descriptions – Literacy – Interacting with others

Curriculum content descriptions

Interpret the stated and implied meanings in spoken texts, and use evidence to support or challenge different perspectives (ACELY1730).
https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Search/?q=ACELY1730

Virtues

- ***tolerance*** – to put up with, endure even if you disagree or have a different opinion
- ***integrity*** – being honourable, having strong principles,
- ***honesty*** – fair, just, truthful and open

Students to complete page 14. Discuss these three virtues in-depth with the class.

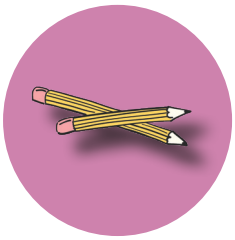
Warm Up Activity

1. AKIANE – this is an amazing true story – I won't spoil it! Watch the following before beginning pages 13 – Topic 2
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6HLg2XUFOg

3. or search Akiane on The Katie Couric Show
4. After watching Akiane on The Katie Couric Show, discuss the following questions in groups or as a class:

i) What was your first reaction to this story?
ii) Do you believe Akiane's story? Why ? Why not?
iii) Ask the students what they make of her statements, 'Why are we here? Everyone is unique.'

5. Before completing page 13 request that students highlight the first sentence... *Beliefs are ideas we hold to be true*.



Main Activity – Heaven?

1. Go to the website where Akiane's virtual art gallery can be viewed and where she has painted 'Heaven' – she states that she doesn't have enough colours to depict what heaven really looks like. Ask students to choose one of the paintings, look at how old she was when she painted it and say why it speaks to them? https://akiane.com/?ulp=RvJp5MCPa9lRBILL&ac=orjODhBs7pXCTDg4#ulp-RvJp5MCPa9lRBILL
2. Work as a class or small teams on the concept of 'Heaven' . The following questions may help. Do you believe in Heaven? If not – why? If yes – what do you perceive it to be?
3. Complete page 14 – mainly focused on the three selected virtues.

Jesus Connection

Jesus Connection Activity

FAITH – this concept will need lots of discussion before completing page 15. Try and come up with a clear definition of faith

Give the students time to reflect on:

- their own opinions
- how they get their point of view across
- tolerance of others' ideas
- the art of really listening.

Ask the class about their opinions about heaven, Jesus and what they have faith in.

Prayer/Reflection

Refer to prayer on page 129 from the student book:

Lord,
Help me to be guided by you on my journey through life. I understand that my beliefs may change; that they may be challenged or questioned; that my beliefs may be affirmed.
I pray that my beliefs will always be strengthened by your presence in my life.
Amen.

Success Criteria

That students can...

- reflect on what they believe and then either write or explain this in a way that does not offend
- listen more and/or appreciate others' opinions so that they can clearly establish what they believe as a contrast to what others believe
- understand that others may have differing opinions.

Take Away Bag

Ask the students what is the ONE thing they are going to take away from this unit of work.

Extensions

Extension Ideas

1. Discuss with the class any 'out of this world experiences' that have either happened to you or someone else you know. If you are having trouble google Oprah at www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqLBX9clNkk
2. Discuss – 'If you don't stand for something, you may fall for anything!'
3. Look up the Vatican Miracle Commission and how the Catholic church verifies miracles.
4. Ask students to name something they CAN'T believe has occurred. As a prompt, have a look at these photos that you will find hard to believe...
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prZxQVeJiOo

Relatable Quote

'You can do anything as long as you don't stop believing. When it is meant to be, it will be. You just have to follow your heart.'
– Keke Palmer