VALUE
tolerance

Topic 4 – 'To fit in or not fit in' – that is the question

Learning Intention
Hey, why this lesson?

TO LEARN ABOUT FITTING IN AND WHAT THIS ACTUALLY MEANS

God wants us to discover our talents, gifts and passions. As well as discovering these, students will find ways to effectively share them with others (e.g. hobbies, skills, etc.) but to not compromise their beliefs so as to just fit in!

Hint: Maybe ask questions about
i) understanding that we all have difficulties deciding whether to or how to 'fit-in'!
ii) is it necessary to 'fit in'?

Scripture

John 2: 1-11
AND
Matthew 26: 36

Complete page 23 section where Jesus prayed when he was scared plus find some modern day people with a positive Jesus-like message. Explain to the students that being scared in a natural occurrence in our lives. We are all vulnerable at times, but ask for help if you can or tackle problems with a positive well thought out process.

ACARA Connection
RE Key Understanding

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

Health and physical education / Year 7 and 8 / Personal, Social and Community Health / Being healthy, safe and active

Curriculum content descriptions
Evaluate strategies to manage personal, physical and social changes that occur as they grow older (ACPPS071)
https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/Search/?q=acpps071

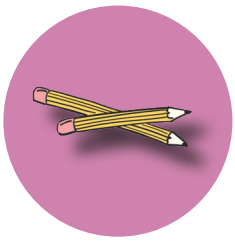
Virtues

- ***truthfulness*** – being your true self with honesty
- ***vulnerable*** – where you are in danger of showing your true self/emotions
- ***wisdom*** – gaining understandings and insights through experiences and discernment

Being **vulnerable** is discussed on page 23 of the student book. Suggest to students they may wish to journal on page 24 about the wisdom they receive from various people, as well as the need for truthfulness in their life.

Warm Up Activity – Masks

1. Be aware that this award-winning film was made by students. It can be quite confronting.
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikGVWEvUzNM
2. In the mask on page 23 complete – I wear a mask ...
3. Follow up with small group discussions – 5 mins at least.
4. Share – with whole class and teacher input.
5. If time discuss:
   i) why the teacher wasn't wearing a mask
   ii) what happens next.



Main Activity – Becoming Vulnerable

(worked on in conjunction with page 23)

We are all vulnerable at various times in our lives. The teenage years, when you are trying to discover who you are, is especially a time when you put on a mask to protect yourself.

Jesus Connection

Jesus Connection Activity

As stated on page 23, emphasise the 'Spirit of Jesus' moments and get the students to complete when they were happy /sad.

Prayer/Reflection

Thomas Merton said, 'The first step toward finding God, Who is Truth, is to discover the truth about myself: and if I have been in error, this first step to truth is the discovery of my error'

Take a moment to reflect where you may have been wrong or in error, such as with parents, friends or teachers. This might make you vulnerable but in the end it will make you stronger.

Reflection Questions

Reflection Activity

How can we get rid of masks that we wear? Or are we even aware of the masks we wear? Encourage students to journal their thoughts about this while also completing pages 21 & 22.

Success Criteria

The students are able to ...

- write about their feelings when they are left out or when they first attended a new school
- understand the difference between fitting in and belonging
- realise the need to reflect where they may have been wrong or in error, so that they can forgive themselves and maybe fit in better next time
- understand that they shouldn't have to completely change to fit in – sometimes it just means that they are different and celebrate that.

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. I am Me – YouTube – super powerful reflection on being YOU! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8Sv3CitPks
   What line or verse in these lyrics resonate with you? Why? Make a small poster including these lyrics which may inspire others.
2. Thomas Merton listened to and tried to understand many famous philosophers. Google his quotes and find one that stands out to you.
3. Design a mask that appeals to you.
4. Do we or should we have to fit in? Many of the great minds in history have not fitted in and managed to survive and even become famous. Can you think of any of these people?

Relatable Quote

'The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image. Otherwise we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them.'

– Thomas Merton

Relatable Quote

Thomas Merton led an amazing life, sharing his wisdom and pioneering dialogue with other faiths and intellectuals. Consider tracking down other quotes from Merton.