

Following Jesus today

Resources

- Quotations from Desmond Tutu: "We can look at the life of Jesus to see what God asks of us" and "Members of a family have a gentle, caring compassion for one another."
- Pictures of people of different racial origins, and of Desmond Tutu
- Glass tumblers and tea-lights
- Glass paints in rainbow colours, OR pastels, strips of A4 white paper, scissors and glue

Introduction

Ask the pupils what it might mean to follow Jesus today. Explain that they are going to hear about one person in particular who tries to live a Christian life.

Desmond Tutu grew up in a society that was deeply divided. The white people in South Africa imposed unjust and cruel laws on black people. This meant black people could not live where they wished, and they received an inferior education and health care. The white people had all the power and wealth, and they used this to oppress the black majority. Desmond Tutu has fought all his life for harmony and peace between people of different colours and persuasions. The inspiration for his words and actions came from his Christian faith. He said that Jesus taught us that we all belong to one another, and are all sisters and brothers, members of one family, God's family. He became an Archbishop in the church.

In his fight against the injustice of apartheid in South Africa Desmond Tutu encouraged black and white people to work together peacefully to bring about change. He said, "We will be free! All of us! Black and white together! . . . We are the rainbow people of God! . . . Nobody can stop us on our march to victory! No one, no guns, nothing! . . . We are moving to freedom and nobody can stop us! For God is on our side!"

Explain to the pupils that a rainbow is one beam of light broken into many colours. You could demonstrate with a prism and piece of white paper or with the underside of a CD and a bright light.) Desmond Tutu was comparing this with humanity made up of different individuals and different racial origins.

Activity

The pupils could either:

- Use glass paint in rainbow colours to decorate a tumbler into which a lighted tea-light can be placed.

Or:

- Use pastels, or another medium, to create rainbow colours on strips of plain white paper. Then by folding and cutting, create a row of joined figures and stick these around a tumbler for a tea-light. (The length of A4 (297mm) is more than enough to fit around a medium-sized glass; three length-wise strips (70mm) can be cut from one sheet, and folded into zigzags.)

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Following

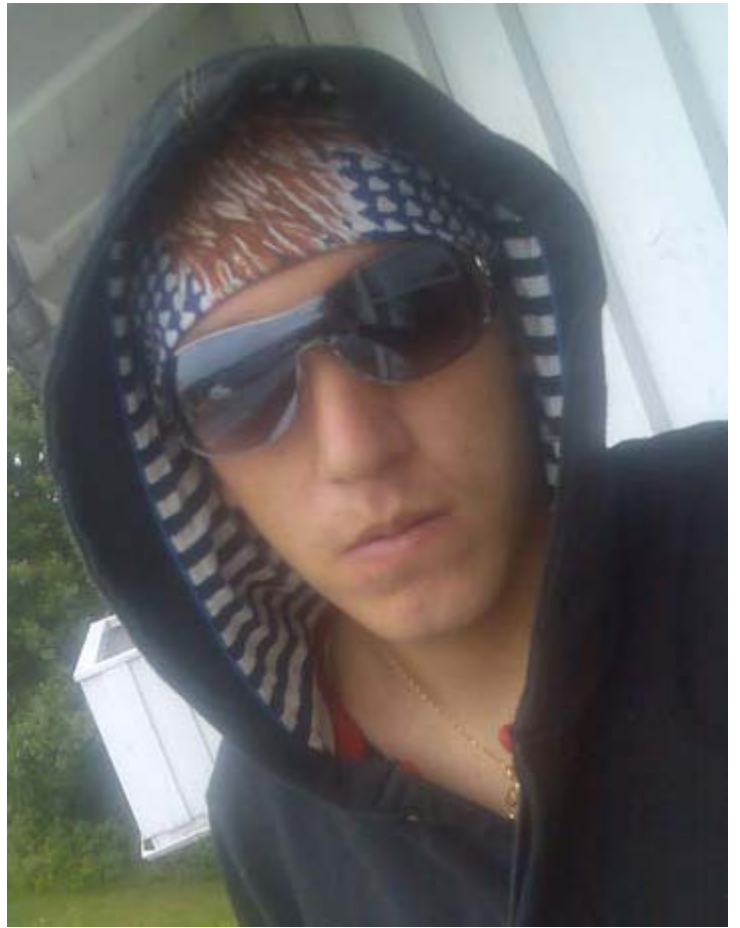
Jesus

today













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