

God's warning system

Biblical Material: Proverbs 18.3

'Sin and shame go together.'

You will need:

- A number of 'pairs'- salt and pepper etc.
- Paper
- A thick felt-tipped pen.

Introduction

Show the pupils your pairs of items: alternatively, mix the items and ask pupils to sort them into pairs for you. Ask the pupils to suggest other pairs: Laurel and Hardy, Batman and Robin etc. List these on the sheet of paper

Batman and Robin
fish and chips
salt and pepper

Prayer/Reflection

A group of pupils can say the following prayer taking one line each.

Like Batman and Robin

Fish and chips

Rhubarb and custard

Salt and pepper

Sin and shame belong together.

Help us, Father, never to separate them.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.

Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. The Bible suggests two things that should go together sin (or wrong) and shame. Explain what being ashamed is. The reason they should go together is because Christians believe shame is God's warning mechanism, like pain. Just as pain tells people to stop doing something that is hurting, or to get help, so shame is unpleasant and tells people to stop doing wrong. Shame, however, should only go with things that are really wrong such as lying and stealing. Pain is unpleasant - but it keeps people safe. Shame is unpleasant, but it keeps people safe from wrong.

Sometimes people feel a slight twinge of pain and there is nothing really wrong but it needs checking all the same. In a similar way, people sometimes feel shame or guilt when they haven't done anything wrong. The warning system has gone slightly wrong. If this happens, check it out: if you haven't done anything wrong, it's a false alarm.

