

# No Pain, No Gain

## Lesson plans for Key Stage 3 and 4

### CURRICULUM LINKS

#### RE links

- ✓ The Life of Jesus / Jesus and his relationship with people; outcasts – 10 men with leprosy
- ✓ The person and ministry of Jesus / His deeds / the poor and social outcasts
- ✓ Morality: Relationships, rights and responsibilities

#### Local and Global Citizenship links

- ✓ Equality and social justice
- ✓ Human rights and social responsibility

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. To have a greater understanding of leprosy and the physical, social and emotional impact the disease can have
2. To practice group discussion skills
3. To consider Jesus' example of unconditional love for all
4. To explore the relevance of Jesus' treatment of marginalized groups and the consequent challenge for society today
5. To explore the work of a non-governmental organisation which aims to promote equality and social justice
6. Investigate how and why some people may experience inequality/social exclusion on the basis of their material circumstances in local and global contexts
7. To develop understanding of what global citizenship means and explore ways that students can put learning into action

### RESOURCES NEEDED:

- Bibles, or print outs of Luke 17: 11-17
- [Photo of Aboubacar](#) 
- [Copies of 'Aboubacar's story' worksheet](#) 

### INTRODUCTION

Explain that the students are going to learn about leprosy, how it affects people's lives and how Jesus treated people with the disease. Many people know very little about leprosy. One of the unique features of the disease is that people who do not receive treatment or receive it too late lose sensation in their hands, feet and even their faces – so they do not feel pain. This can lead to disability and disfigurement.

The following quiz should help your students understand a little bit more.

### I. ACTIVITY: TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ

Read out the following statements and ask your students whether they think they are true or false about leprosy, as well as teach them some other fun facts:

- Brazil has won more world cup championships than any other country. (True (five. Germany and Italy are the next most successful with four wins each.)
- Leprosy is a Biblical disease and doesn't exist anymore. (False: Each year, over 215,000 people around the world are diagnosed with leprosy, with the majority of new cases in India. And around four million people in the world live with leprosy-related disabilities).
- You can catch leprosy from touching someone. (False: contrary to popular belief, leprosy is not very contagious. About 95% of the world's population are naturally immune to it. Leprosy is most likely passed on through droplets from the nose. To catch it, people would need to be in regular contact with someone who has it over a sustained period of time).
- People who own pet armadillos are more likely to catch leprosy. (True! Armadillos are one of only two animals which contract leprosy and they can also pass it on to humans.)
- People's fingers or toes fall off if they have leprosy. (False: people's hands and feet can become very damaged but they don't 'fall off'. The damage occurs because the bacteria attacks nerve endings meaning that parts of the person's body may become insensitive to pain. They can touch a hot pan or step on a nail and not realise they have hurt themselves which can lead to infection and in severe cases amputation of limbs).
- Centipedes always have 100 feet. (False: adult centipedes can have between 15 and 177 pairs of legs).
- If a child or teenager has leprosy, they may be asked to leave school. (True: in some countries/regions, people are very fearful of the disease and many myths or superstitions abound. This can lead to discrimination. There are cases of children and teenagers not being able to go to school because they have leprosy, or even just because a parent or grandparent had it).
- A slug's blood is green. (True: They do not have iron in their blood like humans and other animals do).
- It is acceptable to term someone who has leprosy a 'leper'. (False: it breeds a sense of stigma and isolation. The word leper has been used over the years, not just in relation to a leprosy-affected person, but also in relation to social exclusion.)

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## 2. BIBLE STORY: JESUS HEALS 10 MEN WITH LEPROSY (LUKE 17:11-17)

Read out the Bible story.

Alternatively show the '[10 men with leprosy](#)' video, available on the 'no pain, no gain' website

**Explain:** At this time, anyone who was thought to have leprosy was shunned by society. They would not have been welcome in their homes or villages. People would have fled from them if they saw or heard them – it is thought that leprosy sufferers were made to carry and ring bells to warn people that they were nearby. There was much fear surrounding the disease. People thought it was very contagious. There was also a belief that people who had it were 'unclean' and that God must be punishing them for some past sin. The priests were a bit like the doctors of the day; they could decide whether or not a person was clean or unclean. This explains why Jesus told them to see their priest – he would be the one to declare whether they could return home again. What is so notable here is Jesus' reaction: he doesn't run away or act afraid, he speaks to them, respects them and meets their needs.

## 3. ACTIVITY: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

**Aim:** The students need to find out why the characters in the story behaved the way they did.

Split the class into small groups of approximately five or six. Give them a print out of the Bible story, or a Bible so they can refer to the story if needed. In their groups they need to decide which one of them will be 'Jesus', which one will be the man who went back and which one will be one of the men who didn't return. The other two or three need to think of some questions to ask these 'characters'. There's no role playing needed as such! The characters just need to think through why they might have behaved the way they did.

Here are some suggested questions: Why didn't Jesus run away from the people with leprosy? Why did he heal them? What made the man return and say thank you? Why did the men who didn't go back not return to say thank you? How did they feel when they were healed? How do they think the priest, their family, their community, would have reacted?

After 5-10 minutes of small group discussion, ask the groups to feedback to the rest of the class what they discovered about why the characters might have behaved the way that they did. Each group could feedback on one character.

### An alternate activity: Press conference

If your class enjoys large group work, or role play, you could set up a 'Press Conference'.

Select students to be characters in the story, as above, and perhaps include one of the disciples (although they are not mentioned in the story they almost certainly would have been there).

If possible, set up a table at the front of the room that the characters can sit behind, facing the rest of the class. Give them named place cards.

The rest of the class are journalists and this is a press conference. Give them a couple of minutes to think of a question they would like to ask one of the characters (or, depending on the size of your class, split the students into small groups and ask them to come up with one or two questions for specific characters).

**Discuss:** What did you learn from their answers? Do you agree with the answers that the characters gave? If not, why not?

## 4. ABOUBACAR'S STORY

Show [Aboubacar's photo](#) on the interactive whiteboard or projected onto a screen.

Think about a time when you have been left out. Or when someone has laughed at you or avoided you. How did it make you feel? (This doesn't need to be shared necessarily)

People with leprosy are still treated unfairly today. Leprosy primarily occurs in poor countries and regions of the world where there may be little access to good healthcare. The Leprosy Mission is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) working to follow Jesus' example by caring for people that society rejects, valuing them and restoring them physically and emotionally.

Give each student a copy of 'Aboubacar's story' worksheet. Ask one student to read out the story. Then individually, or in pairs, they need to work through each of the questions and complete the exercise at the end.

## 5. LEARNING RECAP

Find out how much your students have learnt from the lesson so far.

Can anyone explain what leprosy is?

Can you remember from the True or False game why a child or teenager affected by leprosy might be asked to leave school?

From the Bible story, can you remember why the 10 men stood far away from Jesus? How did Jesus treat people with leprosy?

What did you learn from the Bible story about how Jesus treats others?

What did you learn about why only one of the men returned to say thank you?

Can you remember why Aboubacar is in hospital?

Why do people with leprosy often experience rejection or discrimination, even today?

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What can we do to help others that we know in our community or further afield who may be treated unfairly by others?

What do you know about the kind of work that The Leprosy Mission does?

## 6. SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP HOMEWORK OR RESEARCH PROJECT

Find out more about what The Leprosy Mission does. Produce a poster or small brochure to explain to others how The Leprosy Mission cares for people affected by leprosy.

## 7. PUTTING LEARNING INTO ACTION

Your class or whole school could make a valuable difference to children like Aboubacar!

Raising funds and raising awareness of the disease and the work of The Leprosy Mission are both great ways of enabling children like Aboubacar to have a better chance in life.

Here's some suggestions for ways the students can act on what they've learnt:

- Try the True and False quiz with parents (download a copy of it here)
- Using your learning from today's lesson put together an assembly
- Make posters to help educate the rest of the school
- Write and display prayers for Arati, for people in our communities who experience loneliness or rejection, and for the work of The Leprosy Mission.
- Together, plan a fundraising event. We would love every school in Northern Ireland to consider raising £200 to cure, care for and restore one person affected by leprosy.

Download the [fundraising ideas PDF](#) on the website for suggestions of how you can encourage your class or whole school to make a difference to children like Aboubacar!



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The Leprosy Mission is a registered charity  
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