



Current Affairs Assembly

KS3 Healthy Lifestyle – Spiritual Health

Assembly

40



In the beginning was the Word

Aim:

- To consider the influence of the Bible on our language and culture
- To reflect on the value of the Bible to those who believe it to be the word of God

Introduction

Idioms and Phrases

Read out the following commonly used idioms, asking pupils to briefly state what they mean:

1. A wolf in sheep's clothing – (someone who hides their harmful intention under a guise of kindness)
2. Red sky at night, shepherd's delight – (a vivid sunset is said to be an indicator of good weather the next day)
3. The writing is on the wall – (disaster or danger is imminent)
4. Pride comes before a fall – (a person who is extremely proud of their abilities will often suffer a setback because overconfidence has caused them to over-reach themselves)
5. He who lives by the sword dies by the sword – (aggressive behavior will be met with aggression)
6. Can a leopard change his spots? – (Can any person or creature change what they innately are?)



7. Fall from grace – (to lose a position of high esteem)

8. A fly in the ointment – (a small but irritating flaw that spoils the whole thing)
9. A drop in the bucket – (a very small proportion of the whole thing)
10. Bite the dust – (fall down dead or wounded)

Ask the pupils if they know what all these phrases have in common. They are all phrases taken from the Bible – the King James or Authorised version of the Bible is, after Shakespeare, the most common source of phrases in English.

Looking Deeper

Four hundred years old

May 2011 sees the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible. Until that time, the official version of the Bible was in Latin, and was only available to priests. Ordinary people did not have access to the Bible for themselves.

However when James VI of Scotland became James I of England in 1603, in an attempt to bring the different branches of the church closer together, he authorised the translation of the Bible from the original Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic, into English.

The King James or Authorised Version was translated by 47 biblical scholars, working in six committees and took four years to complete. The translators took into account versions of the Bible that had been translated over the previous hundred years; they also went back to original manuscripts and documents, taking advantage of a resurgence of education and scholarship during the Reformation.



Current Affairs Assembly

KS3 Healthy Lifestyle – Spiritual Health

Assembly



Once it was published in 1611, although fairly quickly scholars soon realized that there were mistakes in the translation but no revision of the text was made for 270 years.

Christians believe that the Bible is the word of God given to humankind. It tells of his purposes with the Earth, and the human race. It gives the story of the first people and their dealings with God. It outlines the promises made to God-fearing men and women long ago – promises of the hope of forgiveness and restoration through the Son of God. It points to the future hope of Jesus' return to Earth to re-establish God's kingdom and usher in the glorious age of the Millennium.

Although the Bible is not so widely esteemed in society as a whole today, as it was 400 years ago, for Christians it is still regarded as a guiding light, showing them the way they should live, as a plumb-line or standard, by which they can evaluate what is right or wrong, and as a message from God himself. Many Christians read portions of the Bible daily, either individually or in groups.

Reflection

Christians value the Bible as a light, a guide, and a plumb-line. What do you look to for direction, to help you evaluate your life and to encourage you?

Prayer

Lord God,
Thank you for your word, the Bible.
Thank you for people who worked to make it available to us in our own language. But even in English the message is often difficult to understand. Please help us to hear what you are saying and to understand its relevance. Amen.

Keywords

Bible
King James Version
400 year anniversary
guide
light
plumb-line

