



Current Affairs Assembly

KS3 Citizenship and Politics – The rule of law

Assembly



What a riot

Aim:

To show a Christian perspective on the riots in England in August.

Introduction

What did you do in the summer holidays?

What have you done with the 6 weeks of no school?

Some of you will have been away on holiday and some of you won't.

Some of you will have been out everyday with your mates and some of you won't.

Some of you will have got into trouble with your families and some of you won't.

Some of you will have been ill and some of you won't.

Some of you will have done things you've never done before and some of you won't.

Some of you will have been extremely happy with exam results and some of you won't.

Some of you will have shown respect and tolerance to others and some of you won't?

What ever you did the time has gone by and cannot be relived.

Did you waste your time, doing nothing with it?

What do you remember about your break from school?

What ever you did can't be undone, whatever you said can't be unsaid and what ever you felt cannot be un-felt.

Looking Deeper

By 24th August 299 people under the age of 17 had been brought to the courts accused of taking part in the riots between 6th and 9th August.



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riot>

Just short of 1 million 16 – 17 year olds have had GCSE results on August 25th.

Just under 250,000 18 – 19 year olds received A level results on 18th August.

Just under 1 million 16 to 24 year olds are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in February 2011.

Unemployment in 16 to 24 age range is over 20%.

Two girls interviewed on August 9th about riots in Croydon explained:

"It's not even a riot - it's showing the people we can do what we want. It's the rich people, the people that have got businesses and that's why all of this has happened, because of the rich people."

(www.abc.net.au/am/content/2011/s3289676.htm)



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Four boys gave their reasons to a Sky News reporter.

"The government helps no one except the rich people . . . and that's who the government are looking out for."

"They ain't noticing me. So if they ain't noticing me from that (Putting in many job applications and not getting any replies) then we will just have to start doing it a different way."

"Right now there ain't no future for young people. That's how I see it."

The interviewer summarises by saying, "Feeling isolated is not an excuse (for the rioting and looting) . . . They wanted to give their reasons, they wanted a voice." (www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjWifAuTwJg)

Do the actions of the rioters and looters show respect and tolerance to other people or their possessions?

Jesus said 'Love one another as I have loved you' – John 13:34

Jesus also said, "Love those who hate you." – Matthew 5:39-48

This says that love is a two-way process, as are respect and tolerance, and that we should show tolerance and respect to those who don't show us tolerance and disrespect us.

That's hard if someone has destroyed all that you have worked to build up.

So, what does the Bible say about rioting and looting?

- It warns to look out for the dangers of wealth and in particular of a consumer society, which seems not to need God – Luke 16: 14-15

- Do not envy other peoples possessions – Exodus 20:17
- Civil disobedience is sinful – Romans 13:1-7
- Sin doesn't work – Genesis 3

Is the consumerism of our society so powerfully put across to all of us that we are excluding God? Is this what happens when we exclude God and godly ways?

Christians also say that it is wrong to deny young people the hope of being a useful part of society

Reflection

The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,
Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it.

The Rubáiyát, Omar Khayyám

Prayer

Father God we pray for forgiveness for all those who took part in rioting and looting. We pray that government and law enforcers may use your example of compassion in their future actions. We pray for young people that they will not feel included in society. Amen

Thought for the day

"I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again."

William Penn

Key words

Respect, tolerance, riots, looting