# Lesson Element

# The purpose of one Christian Aid agency

### Learning outcome

This lesson element relates to ‘Beliefs and teachings and practices – The role of the church in the wider world and in particular:

* The purpose of one of the following Christian aid agencies:
	+ Christian Aid
	+ Tearfund
	+ CAFOD

Learners will need to:

* Understand why Christians support those who are living in poverty
* Be able to use their research skills to investigate charities and their role in the wider world.

The following teacher instructions cover the learner activity section which can be found on [page 4](#_Student_Activity).
This Lesson Element supports OCR GCSE (9‒1) Religious Studies.

**When distributing the activity section to the learners either as a printed copy or as a Word file, you will need to remove the teacher instructions section.**

### Introduction

There are many Christian Aid agencies working worldwide to tackle poverty and injustice. They work both in the UK and abroad. You will be required to teach about at least one of the following aid agencies: Christian Aid, Tearfund or CAFOD. Learners will need to know why these agencies work with the poor (what does Christianity teach about serving the poor) and have an understanding of at least one project these agencies have been involved in. The content of this lesson element will span at least two hours of teaching.

### Teacher preparation

It would be worthwhile to look at the following websites to familiarise yourself with their layout and content:

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

<http://cafod.org.uk/>

<http://www.tearfund.org/>

Materials: Layers of inference sheet, Bible quotes, card sort, Expert activity table, PowerPoint.

### Activities

Six activities are suggested below, with the associated worksheets in the learner activity section on page 4.

**Activity 1: Starter – Layers of inference**

(Teacher to edit the interior picture so there is a range of images to use within the activity). The purpose of this activity is to encourage learners to consider the reality of poverty and why Christians might help those in need. Hand one sheet out per table. In groups learners answer in detail the question in the smallest box. They must then pass the sheet on to a neighbouring table who must read their answers for the first question before answer the question in the next box, this continues until the sheet is completed and must be handed back to the original table.

**Activity 2: Learning – What does the Bible say about helping those in need?**

In pairs learners annotate the Bible verses, what are they saying about Christians’ responsibility in helping the poor? Pairs then feedback to the class. Teacher to summarise feedback from learners on the whiteboard.

**Activity 3: Development – Why do Christians care for the poor?**

This is a high-level thinking skills activity. Write the following question on the board ‘What are Christian responses to poverty and why?’ The aim of this is activity is for learners to use higher level thinking to put the cards into their own (learner led) categories and gradually remove cards. The end goal is for learners to be able to answer the question 'what are Christian responses to poverty and why?' Answering the question can be done in silence as a timed essay in class.

**Activity 4: Introduction to one Christian Aid agency**

Once learners fully understand why it is that Christians help the poor, they need to learn about the purpose and work of at least one Christian Aid agency. Watch the following video – learners to make notes about Christian Aid. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoMpZGsKL3M>

**Activity 5: Christian Aid agencies**

### Place learners in groups of three. Each learner will research one of the following aid agencies (Christian Aid, CAFOD, Tearfund). They will become an ‘expert’ about their designated agency and return to their group at the end of this activity and teach the other two learners what they have learnt. You may wish to create ‘stations of learning’ for each agency. This could include laptops with the charity websites open, textbooks and fliers and leaflets from the charity. All three charities produce their own literature which may be obtained directly from them. They must all fill in the table provided which allows them to make notes about the work of the differing aid agencies.

**Activity 6: Consolidation of learning**

Individually learners must choose one of the three aid agencies studied. They must produce a leaflet about the agency. Suggested success criteria may include: To include Christian teaching on helping the poor, at least two Bible quotes, at least two projects undertaken by the aid agency.

### Supporting/further information

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

<http://cafod.org.uk/>

<http://www.tearfund.org/>

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### Introduction

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**Activity 1**

In table groups you must answer the question in the smallest box (what specifically do you see in the picture). You must then pass the sheet on to a neighbouring table who will read your answers for the first question before answer the question in the next box, this will continue until the sheet is completed and then you need to hand the sheet back to the original table.

**Activity 1**

**Why might a Christian chose to support/help these people?**

**What emotions and feelings do you think these people have?**



**What specifically do you see in this picture?**

**What do you think might be the cause of these feelings?**

### Activity 2

In pairs you must annotate the Bible verses. What are they saying about Christians’ responsibility in helping the poor? Be prepared to feedback to the class.

Then he [Jesus] said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

(Luke 12:15-21)

If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can continue to live among you. Do not take interest of any kind from him, but fear your God, so that your countryman may continue to live among you.

(Leviticus 25:35-37)

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father [God], who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

(Matthew 6:2-4)

People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

(1 Timothy 6:9-10)

Is this not what I have chosen for you?
To loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke.

Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe him,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

(Isaiah 58)

### Activity 3

1. In your groups, read the question on the board that you must try and answer.

2. Write the question into your books.

3. As a group read through the statement cards in the envelope.

4. Re-read the question on the board.

5. Spend 5-10 minutes sorting the statement cards into any number of categories of your choice.

6. Each person in the group now needs to write in their books:

Our categories: [write the three chosen categories here].

 1.

 2.

 3.

We came to this decision because [write the reason why your team placed the cards into these categories].

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7. Re-read the question. At this point you may reject up to three of the statement cards. It must be a unanimous group decision.

8. Re-read the question. Can you without a doubt, answer the question on the board?

9. At this point, as a group you may spend 5-10 minutes re-sorting the statement cards into any number of categories of your choice.

10. Each person in the group now needs to write in their books:

Our new categories: [write the three chosen categories here].

 1.

 2.

 3.

We came to this decision because [write the reason why your team placed the cards into these categories].

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11. Re-read the question. At this point you may reject up to two of the statement cards. It must be a unanimous decision.

12. Re-read the question. Can you without a doubt answer the question on the board?

13. Write your answer to the question into your books. There is no right or wrong answer.

**Cards for Activity 3**

Giving money, food and aid to a poorer country doesn’t make them independent; it actually makes them dependant on the givers.

It says in the Bible: “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions” (Luke 12:15)

There is an old saying “Charity begins at home”. Surely we should be looking after our families and friends here in England first and foremost.

It says in the Bible: “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.” (Luke 18:25)

It says in the Bible: “If one of your countrymen becomes poor and is unable to support himself among you, help him as you would an alien or a temporary resident, so he can still live among you.” (Leviticus 25:35-37)

It says in the Bible: “Love your neighbour as yourself” (Mat 22:39), it also says in John 13:34 “Just as I [Jesus] have loved you, you also should love one another.”

The first article of the Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

The media often reports that the effects of bad weather, poor harvests, corrupt governments and civil and international wars are often the causes of poverty, hunger and disease.

It says in the Bible: “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets…
so that your giving may be in secret. Then [God] will reward you” (Matthew 6:3-4).

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Many people feel that making money is the main purpose of their lives. The success of the lottery shows how much people want money.

It says in the Bible: “If anyone has material possessions and sees his brothers in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?” (1 John 3:17)

Christians aren’t the only people who give money to the poor. There are other people who give also. You don’t need to be a Christian to give.

Charities such as Christian Aid have been set up to try to coordinate the work of churches to try and ensure that people are not left starving.

It says in the Bible: “This is what I chose for you, to loose the chains of injustice…set the oppressed free, should you not share your food with the hungry and provide shelter.” (Isaiah 58)

Many Christians give up all they have to become ‘missionaries’ in third world countries. Here they help the poor and needy.

Some Christians believe that people who really follow Jesus’ teaching must take positive action to fight against social injustice.

Some Christians do not give to the poor. They are only human, and they want money just as much as anyone else. Religion has nothing to do with it.

The money spent on financing the troops in Iraq could have been better spent establishing health care or paying for food in Ethiopia or Columbia.

**Activity 4**

Watch the video – make notes about Christian Aid.

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**Activity 5**

Get into groups of three. Each person in the group will research one of the following aid agencies (Christian Aid, CAFOD, Tearfund) and you will become an ‘expert’ about your designated agency. You will return to your group at the end of this activity and teach the other two learners what you have learnt. You must fill in the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Aid Agency** | **Why do they do what they do?** | **Description of at least two projects** |
| **Christian Aid** |  |  |
| **CAFOD** |  |  |
| **Tearfund** |  |  |

### Activity 6

You must choose one of the three aid agencies you’ve learnt about. You must produce a leaflet about the agency. Success criteria:

* to include Christian teaching on helping the poor
* to include at least two Bible quotes
* to include at least two projects undertaken by the aid agency.