

LIFEBOAT ACTIVITY



Learning Intention: To recognise that everyone has an inherent human dignity that should be protected and respected.

Instructions: Organise students into groups of 6. Read the below scenario to the students and then distribute the one profile card to each of the group members.

Within their groups, students are to take turns to justify their assigned person's position on the lifeboat.

There are six people on a small cruise ship that was headed to Fiji. The boat hit some submerged rocks underwater and begins to sink. Many people fell out of the boat and sadly drowned. As the ship continues to sink, they spot an island and believe that they are close enough to reach it in a lifeboat. However, there are only 6 of them left alive, but only room for 3 in the lifeboat. Those that go in the lifeboat will probably make it to the island where they will try to survive until they are rescued. Those that are left on the sinking cruise ship will likely go down with the ship and die.

Which of the 3 remaining passengers deserve a spot on the lifeboat?

Conclude the lesson with a debrief using the following guiding questions:

1. Which members did your group choose to save?
2. What criteria was used to determine their spot on the boat? Were certain physical or mental attributes more valued than others?
3. Which passengers were not selected to board the lifeboat and why?
4. What were some of the main disagreements within the group?
5. How did you resolve these disagreements and reach a final decision?
6. How did you use your knowledge of human dignity in this activity?
7. What did this activity teach you about each person's inherent human dignity?

After the debrief, remind students that the aim of this activity is to recognise that each person has an inherent, and equal, human dignity. Today's society often places value on a person based on their abilities, qualifications and status, and at times we are influenced by these ourselves. Each person deserves a place as we are all created equal, unique and are made in the image and likeness of God.

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Roberto, is a 50-year-old male who worked as a builder most his life. He left high school in year 10. Roberto is a great handy-man and can build almost anything. He is a heavy smoker and has smoked for most of his life. Because of this, he has developed severe emphysema and struggles to walk long distances. He has three older children and a wife back home and is described by many as kind and caring.

Manal, is a 45-year-old doctor and has worked as a GP for over 15 years. She is well respected in her community and has won an award for her work in infectious disease prevention. She has 2 young children back home. One year ago, Molly was involved in a car accident and sadly became a paraplegic. She still practices as a doctor but moves around using a wheelchair.

William is a 30-year-old personal trainer. He regularly partakes in marathons and has won a number of events. He is extremely fit and healthy. William spent two years in prison for severely assaulting a man during a road-rage altercation. He is currently enrolled in an anger management program but has not been attending his sessions regularly.

Jenny is a 42-year-old psychologist. She works mainly in the areas of family conflict resolution and loves her work. She is fit and is a very good cook. Many describe her as a loving and compassionate friend. Jenny noticed some issues with her vision 6 months ago and has recently found out that she is going blind.

Leroy is a 29-year-old truck driver who lives at home with his parents. He is quiet and extremely smart. He does not go out much, but he received tickets for the cruise as a present for his upcoming 30th birthday. Leroy was on the terrorist watch list after he made numerous suspicious online searches about white supremacy and genocide, but these searches were made 5 years ago, and he is adamant he no longer holds any racist views and has worked to become more open minded and accepting of others.

Salima is an 8-year-old primary school student. She enjoys spending time with her friends, reading and cooking with her grandmother. She dreams of one day becoming a pastry chef. She lives at home with her parents, and two brothers. None of her family survived the crash.