

Junior Certificate Religious Education Support Service

Sample Lesson Plan for Teaching Elements of Syllabus Section A: Communities of Faith

Part 3: Communities of Faith

Syllabus Aim	To identify the characteristics of communities of faith / churches (Syllabus p8)
Syllabus Objectives	As a result of studying this section the students should <ul style="list-style-type: none">• be able to name the churches and religious groups found in Ireland today• recognise and be able to retell stories about the founders / earliest followers of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism (Syllabus p11)
Key Concepts	Religions, denomination, founder, identity, inspiring vision.
Description of Content	Communities of faith today: examples of different religious communities, their correct names and titles, including the titles and names of leaders. The founders/origins of the major world religion. Stories of the earliest followers and their leaders. Exploration of the work done by two churches or religious organisations or orders at a local and national level, under the following headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The inspiration for this work and for commitment to service in the community of faith.• The impact of this work on other individuals and on other communities.• The variety of roles within communities of faith.
Methodology	A variety of methodologies are used including discussion, interpretation of data, interview / modelling, group work and research.

Procedure

Introduction – Communities of faith today

Check the students' present knowledge of churches and religious groups by asking the following questions:

1. Can you name any churches or religious groups that can be found anywhere in the world?
2. Which of these can be found in Ireland?
3. Which of these can be found in your own locality?
4. What are the titles and names of the leaders in more than two of these churches and religious groups?

Assignments:

1. Give students time to research/read about churches and religious groups in Ireland, in the Local Ireland Almanac and Year Book of Facts 2002, and website www.localalmanac.ie/religion/ Note the information on this may have to be regularly updated) or listing of churches and religious groups found in the pages of the telephone directory /census, etc.
2. Identify three churches and religious groups found in their locality.
3. Identify the correct names and titles of the leaders of three churches and religious groups.

As a follow-up exercise complete the *Student Work: CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN IRELAND* - True and False Assignment and correct it using the following Answer Sheet:

Statements	True	False
1. The head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland is Most Rev. Sean Brady	ü	
2. Most Rev. Robert Eames is an Archbishop	ü	
3. Fr. Ireneu Craciun is the head of the Church of Ireland		ü
4. The head of the Methodist Church in Ireland is called President	ü	
5. The national leader of the Islamic religion is called an Imam		ü
6. Another name for the Baptist Church is Quakers		ü
7. The Salvation Army is led by a General	ü	
8. There are no Jehovah's Witnesses in Ireland		ü
9. Members of the Baha'i faith are in Ireland	ü	
10. There are no Buddhists in Ireland		ü

Or *Assignment*: Look up a dictionary definition of the word “denomination” and list three Christian denominations that are present in Ireland today.

Stories about the founders / earliest followers of the Major World Religions

By way of introduction use **one** of the following options to affirm and develop students’ general knowledge of the following major world religions: - Christianity - Buddhism - Hinduism - Islam - Judaism

Option 1:

Write the headings - World Religions - Founding Date - Founder Significant Leader - Location - Sacred Texts across the chalkboard. Under the heading World Religions list each of the five religions listed above. Brainstorm students as to what should be written under each heading for the five religions. Fill in any missing information and complete the chart on the chalkboard as outlined below.

WORLD RELIGIONS	FOUNDING DATE	FOUNDER / SIGNIFICANT LEADER	LOCATION	SACRED TEXTS
Christianity	4 BCE	Jesus Christ	World wide	The Bible – Old & New Testaments
Buddhism	Sixth Century BCE	Siddhartha Gautama / Buddha	Worldwide - mainly South East Asia	Tripitaka / Mahayana Sutras
Hinduism	Not known (before 1500 BCE)	None	Worldwide - mainly India	Vedas
Islam	622 AD	Muhammad	Worldwide - mainly Africa to China	Qu’ran / Koran
Judaism	Not known (before 1200 BCE)	Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses ...	Worldwide - mainly Israel and USA	Hebrew Scriptures

(adapted from Religions of the World by FHM Meade et al)

Give students time to draw the completed chart into their copy and discuss the following questions:

1. Which is the oldest of these Major World Religions?
2. Where is it mainly found today?
3. Which is the youngest of these World Religions?
4. Where is it mainly found today?
5. Which of these Major World Religions can be found in Ireland?
6. Where in Ireland are they mainly located?

Students complete the *Student Work: WORLD RELIGIONS WORD SEARCH* based on the information in the World Religions Chart. Correct the students' assignment using the answers below.

Z	X	R	T	E	G	K	J	J	H	M	K	L	O	P	N
Q	H	W	D	F	T	Y	E	U	I	B	I	K	M	M	B
A	H	E	B	R	E	W	S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E
I	D	D	X	T	J	G	U	E	R	B	W	P	H	O	Y
N	H	O	K	R	M	O	S	E	S	L	I	P	A	Q	R
D	U	K	D	I	F	D	C	V	R	E	H	S	M	D	G
I	F	Y	A	P	W	E	H	X	C	V	B	N	M	N	O
A	I	H	H	I	K	O	R	A	N	J	I	T	A	E	T
Q	Y	R	I	T	O	L	I	C	V	B	V	E	D	A	S
A	H	Y	V	A	R	R	S	K	I	R	K	G	M	C	U
G	B	A	X	K	E	I	T	R	I	N	I	T	Y	R	L
A	C	T	K	A	N	S	M	J	K	L	F	T	D	C	V
Z	B	U	D	D	H	A	B	R	A	H	A	M	P	O	U
E	B	R	A	H	M	A	N	L	H	U	I	S	D	F	H
W	T	U	I	O	G	C	D	B	N	J	K	L	M	O	S

<i>Buddhism</i>	<i>Christianity</i>	<i>Hinduism</i>	<i>Islam</i>	<i>Judaism</i>
Buddha	Jesus Christ	Vedas	Muhammad	Abraham / Isaac/ Moses
Tripitaka	Bible	India	Koran	Hebrew Scripture

Option 2: Using a map of the world or the world religions map in “Skills in Religious Studies” Book 1 (J. Fageant & S.C. Mercier) students colour in the location where the five major world religions are most prominently located.

Option 3: Write the question: What are the origins of this Religion? on to the chalkboard. Write the names of the five major world religions under the question. Cut out from *Student Work: WORLD RELIGIONS - QUESTION & ANSWER* the summary answers of the world religions. Distribute these answer cards and ask each student to read their card aloud and stand by the name of the world religion associated with their answer. When the answers of the five world religions to this question have been identified, collect the cards and mix them. Ask five volunteers to pick and read aloud one of the cards. As each volunteer reads their answer card aloud, ask the class to identify the world religion for which this is the answer to the question.

Discuss: What are the similarities and differences between the responses of the major world religions?

Option 4: Give students time to complete *Student Work: WORLD RELIGIONS* and correct it using the following answer sheet:

With which world religions do you associate the following texts?	Hebrew Scriptures =Judaism
	Vedas =Hinduism
	Qur'an =Islam
Place the following world religions in order of antiquity (i.e. 1= oldest; 2= 2nd oldest etc.)	Hinduism = 1
	Islam = 3
	Judaism = 2
Name the founder/ significant leader of the following world religions? (If unknown say unknown)	Hinduism = Unknown
	Islam = Muhammad
	Judaism = Abraham
Name the world religion, which you associate with the following places of worship?	A Mosque = Islam
	A Synagogue = Judaism
	A Temple = Hinduism
What is out of place in the following list? Why?	Mosque - Out of place
	- Not a sacred text

This exercise can be completed in the form of a game - 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire'. Ask for a volunteer. Taking each question in turn, ask a student / team of students for the right answer from a selection of possibilities. The student can answer the question straight away and if they get it right they can move on the next question. However if they are not sure of the answer, they could ask to use one of their three lifelines

- 50/50, where they are given one correct answer as outlined below, and asked to guess the others;
- look up a book, where they have a chance to refer to their notes;
- ask a friend, where they must name one person in the class whom they can consult.

They can only use each lifeline once. The person / group with the most correct answers is the winner.

Group Work:

For a detailed study of the founders / earliest followers of the Major World Religions divide students into groups to research Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam. Give each group preliminary directions as to sources of information on the founding stories/ origins of the world religion they are researching and identify when they will be expected to present their findings to the rest of the class.

Sources of information include the school library, the Internet and the resources listed at the end of this lesson plan. For some groups it may be helpful to give them an assignment to complete on the world religion they are researching as outlined in *Student Work: WORLD RELIGIONS ASSIGNMENTS*.

Give students time to complete their assignment. Ask each group to make out ten questions about their world religions that the rest of the class should be able to answer after their presentation. Concluded by having each research group present their research to the rest of the class.

Student Assignment:

Divide the class into teams / tables for a quiz. Conduct a quiz with the whole class using the questions from each group.

When feedback has been taken from each teams the whole class group discuss the following questions or identify the correct answers to the *Student Work* on each world religion as outlined below:

BUDDHISM

Discuss with the whole class group:

Student Work: THE BUDDHIST TRADITION

True / False Assignment

	<i>Answer Sheet</i>	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
1. What does the word Buddha mean?	• The Buddha was named Siddhartha Gautama.	T	-
2. Who was given this title?	• Buddha means "the enlightened one".	T	-
3. Give five pieces of information about him.	• There are Five Noble Truths in Buddhism.		F
4. What answer was the Buddha looking for?			
5. Where did he eventually find it?			
6. What was the answer?			

CHRISTIANITY

Discuss with the whole class group:

Student Work: THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION

Assignment Answers:

1. Where do we find most of the information about Jesus?	• Approximately how many followers of Christianity are there in the world?	- 950 million
2. What was the religion of Jesus and his disciples?	• Who is the centre point of the Christian religion?	- Jesus Christ
3. Name the first four books of the New Testament.	• Where was Jesus born?	- Bethlehem
4. Why is Sunday the Holy Day for Christians?	• Where was Jesus Crucified?	- Jerusalem
	• How many days after his death did Jesus rise from the dead?	- Three

Exploration of the work done by two churches or religious organisations or orders at a local and national level

e.g. the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church.

Check the students' general knowledge of these two communities by asking:

1. What do you know about either of these communities?
2. Do either of them have congregations in this area?
3. Do you know the names of their leaders, locally or nationally?

Present students with some background information on the two communities of faith using one of the following:

- Video: Viewpoint Series - On Being a Member of the Church of Ireland & On Being a Methodist.
- *Student Work*: THE METHODIST CHURCH - JOHN WESLEY (1703 – 1791)

or

Research Activity: Organise the students into pairs and ask them to research the two communities of faith by discussing the following questions with the local leaders of the Church of Ireland and the Methodist Church:

- What work is this denomination involved in?
- Why is it involved in this work / what is the inspiration for this work?
- What is the effect / impact of this work on the community?
- What are the different roles in this denomination both at local and national levels?

Student Assignment:

Write a one-page report on the two communities of faith including ten points of information that you learned from doing your research.

Resources which teachers have suggested include:

- A Time to Live New Christian Way Series 3 Veritas, p. 132-144.
All About Faith 1 Gill and Macmillan Series, p.2; 5; 24-29; 35.
All About Faith 2 Gill and Macmillan Series, p. 24; 34; 51-52; 78; 86-91; 175; 185-187; 197-202.
Believe The Good News Gill and Macmillan Series, p. 181-197.
Community of Hope Veritas, p. 6-14; 18-21; 23-31; 50-72.
Community of Faith Veritas, p. 14-15; 58-83.
Cyberclass Manuel, p. 45-77 & Scholastech Disk 3.
Great Religions of the World (Sr. Loretta Pastva)
Kairos Magazine - Articles on World Religions
Local Ireland Almanac and Year Book of Facts 2002. www.localalmanac.ie/religion/
Other Religions in A World of Change (W.J. Whelan et al.)
Religions of the World (J. Ferguson)
Show us the Way New Christian Way Series 2 Veritas, p. 116-130.
Skills in Religious Studies Book 1 (J. Fageant & S.C. Mercier)
World Religions and Beliefs (E. Fleming & B. O'Hara)

Student Work: CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN IRELAND - True and False Assignment

<i>Statements</i>	<i>True</i>	<i>False</i>
1. The head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland is Most Rev. Sean Brady		
2. Most Rev. Robert Eames is an Archbishop		
3. Fr. Ireneu Craciun is the head of the Church of Ireland		
4. The head of the Methodist Church in Ireland is called President		
5. The national leader of the Islamic religion is called an Imam		
6. Another name for the Baptist Church is Quakers		
7. The Salvation Army is led by a General		
8. There are no Jehovah's Witnesses in Ireland		
9. Members of the Baha'i faith are in Ireland		
10. There are no Buddhists in Ireland		

Student Work: WORLD RELIGIONS WORD SEARCH

Find the following words in the word search below:

Buddha	India	Vedas	Bible	Abraham
Hebrew Scripture	Muhammad	Jesus Christ	Koran	Tripitaka
Isaac	Moses			

Z X R T E G K J J H M K L O P N
 Q H W D F T Y E U I B I K M M B
 A H E B R E W S C R I P T U R E
 I D D X T J G U E R B W P H O Y
 N H O K R M O S E S L I P A Q R
 D U K D I F D C V R E H S M D G
 I F Y A P W E H X C V B N M N O
 A I H H I K O R A N J I T A E T
 Q Y R I T O L I C V B V E D A S
 A H Y V A R R S K I R K G M C U
 G B A X K E I T R I N I T Y R L
 A C T K A N S M J K L F T D C V
 Z B U D D H A B R A H A M P O U
 E B R A H M A N L H U I S D F H
 W T U I O G C D B N J K L M O S

Match each of the words found in the word search with the correct religion below:

<i>Christianity</i>	<i>Buddhism</i>	<i>Hinduism</i>	<i>Islam</i>	<i>Judaism</i>

Pick one word from each column and explain its connection with the world religion.

<i>Christianity</i>	<i>Buddhism</i>	<i>Hinduism</i>	<i>Islam</i>	<i>Judaism</i>

Student Work: WORLD RELIGIONS - QUESTION & ANSWER - CARDS

Hinduism	This is the most ancient of the great world religions. Some trace its beginnings back to the remains of an ancient civilization near the river Indus 2,500 BC. It has no known founder, no established church and no official teachers. To be a Hindu you must be born one. Tolerance for others is a mark of the Hindu. There are more than 310 million adherents most of whom are in India.
Buddhism	This grew from Hinduism. Founded by Siddhartha Gautama known as the Buddha who lived in India from 563 - 483 B.C. He was dissatisfied with the extreme speculation of Hinduism and substituted a programme of self-discipline. Thus the Buddhist places a greater emphasis on experiencing God than understanding God. Buddhism flourishes in south and east Asia.
Judaism	Over 4,000 years old. The story of Judaism goes back to a leader and prophet called Abraham who lived about 2,000 BC and the land of Canaan, which the Jews later named Israel. Judaism is the mother religion of both Christianity and Islam. God is believed to be one, all - powerful, creator, father, who has made a Covenant with his people.
Islam	This religion believes that "There is but one God and Muhammad is his prophet." Muslims recognise Moses and Jesus as great messengers of God, but believe that his final revelation came through Muhammad in 622 A.D. It has established itself in the Near East and North Africa, numbering approximately 322 million adherents.
Christianity	For two thousand years Christians have looked to Jesus Christ as their example and their leader. They believe that Jesus is God. Most of what we know about Jesus is to be found in the New Testament. Jesus came from a Jewish background. Jesus lived his life in the Jewish land of Palestine in the first century AD. The first four books of the New Testament tell of the life and death of Jesus. Jesus was killed because of his teachings but Christians believe that he rose from the dead after three days and is alive today.

Student Work: WORLD RELIGIONS

- With which world religions do you associate the following texts?
 Hebrew Scriptures Vedas Qur'an

- Place the following world religions in order of antiquity (i.e. 1= oldest; 2= 2nd oldest etc.)
 Hinduism Islam Judaism

- Name the founder / significant leader of the following world religions? (If unknown say unknown)
 Hinduism Islam Judaism

- Name the world religion, which you associate with the following places of worship?
 A Mosque A Synagogue A Temple

- What is out of place in the following lists? Why?
 Hebrew Scriptures Vedas Mosque Qur'an

Student Work: WORLD RELIGIONS ASSIGNMENTS

THE BUDDHIST TRADITION True / False Assignment

True

False

The Buddha was named Siddhartha Gautama.		
Buddha means "the enlightened one".		
There are Five Noble Truths in Buddhism.		

THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION Assignment:

• Approximately how many followers of Christianity are there in the world?	- 9.50 million - 95 million - 950 million
• Who is the centre point of the Christian religion?	- Muhammad - Jesus Christ - Moses
• Where was Jesus born?	- Bethlehem - Nazareth - Jerusalem
• Where was Jesus Crucified?	- Bethlehem - Nazareth - Jerusalem
• How many days after his death did Jesus rise from the dead?	- One - Two - Three

THE HINDU TRADITION True / False Assignment

True

False

Hinduism is the religion of millions of people in India.		
Hinduism has one main founder like the Islamic and Christian religions.		
In Hinduism the Brahmins caste are the servant class.		
Vedas are Hindu sacred texts.		

THE ISLAMIC TRADITION Crossword assignment

1								
		2						
								3
3				2				
4								
		5						

Crossword Down:

1. The mount on which there was a cave where Muhammad retired to pray?
2. The name of Muhammad's mother?
3. The place where Muhammad died in 632?

Crossword Across:

1. The place where Muhammad was born in 570 AD?
2. The place where Muhammad moved to in 622 which marked the official beginning of Islam?
3. The uncle who adopted Muhammad?
4. The name of the angel through whom Muhammad received a message from God?
5. The name of the widow Muhammad married?

THE JEWISH TRADITION Crossword assignment

Crossword Across:

1. In which desert did the Jewish people spend years wandering before they reached the Promised Land?
2. What festival do the Jewish people celebrate to mark their liberation from slavery in Egypt?
3. What name is given to the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures?
4. What was built in Jerusalem during the time of king Solomon?

Crossword Down

1. What occupation did Abraham have?
2. Who was instrumental in calling the Jewish people back to faithfulness to their God?
3. Who was Abraham's grandson?
4. What was the agreement that Abraham made with his God called?
5. Who led the Jewish people to the Promised Land?
6. Who delivered the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt?

		5	6		4			
	3			3				1
2								
			1					
4								

Student Work: **THE METHODIST CHURCH - JOHN WESLEY (1703 – 1791)**

John Wesley was born in Epworth, Lancashire, England in 1703. His father Samuel was a Church of England clergyman. He was one of 19 children, of whom 10 lived. In 1709 there was a disastrous fire in the rectory. Between them the rector and his wife hurried the children downstairs to safety only to find that one of them, little Jacky (John) was missing. The rector tried to fight his way back into the blazing house but in vain. Then a small figure appeared at an upstairs window. Even at 5½ John knew how to keep his head in a crisis. He dragged a chest to the window and climbed up on it and was spotted by someone in the yard below. The onlookers made a human ladder and rescued Jacky moments before the blazing roof caved in. His mother, Susannah, felt he was saved for a special purpose and called him a 'brand plucked from the burning'. Hostile parishioners may have started the fire.

At 10 years old John went to Charterhouse school in London as a gownboy (on a scholarship). He got up at 5 a.m. and ran three times around the school grounds before breakfast as his father had advised him. This helped to keep him tough and healthy in his later life. At 17 he went to Oxford University on a scholarship of £40 per year. He found he could live on £28 (fees, books, accommodation, food etc.) so he gave the rest to the poor. He and other students met to pray and study the Bible. They were called Bible Moths, Holy Club, Bible Bigots and Methodists. They devoted their time and money to helping the poor. They preached in prisons, conducted schools for poor children and looked after the sick. In 1728 he was ordained a priest of the Church of England like his father. In 1735 he and his brother Charles volunteered to go to Georgia, America as missionaries. They hoped to convert the native Indians. The trip was a failure and they returned after John had an unhappy love affair with Sophy Hopkey.

Even though John was brought up a Christian, in a Christian family, he did not fully accept Jesus as his saviour until he had a religious experience in Aldersgate St. where he felt his heart 'strangely warmed by the love of God'. John travelled all over England on horseback for 50 years. He preached, read, argued, ate and slept on horseback. Only in his final years did he get a carriage to travel in. It was fitted out with bookshelves and a portable desk so that he could read and write as he journeyed. He kept a detailed diary since his student days.

John felt the Church of England needed some livening up so he introduced a few changes. One of these was to get lay preachers (not ordained) to help him. This was not popular with the Church of England clergy. Neither was his field preaching. He preached out of doors so that everyone, rich and poor, could come and hear him. He never had a parish of his own. He said the 'whole world was his parish'. In 1739 he established the 'New Room' in Bristol, the first ever Methodist Church in the world. He founded an orphan house and several schools for poor and miners' children. He set up London's first free clinic with properly qualified doctors to look after the poor. There was strong opposition to John Wesley and his preaching. Mobs were raised against him. A drunken crowd burst into his house. Church bells were rung to drown his voice. A maddened bull was driven into the crowd where he was preaching but it swerved away from him again and again. A heckler came with a pocketful of rotten eggs to throw at him, but before he could do so the crowd squashed his pocket and the eggs. He married Mary Vizelle, a well to do London widow who nursed him back to health when he was sick. This marriage failed because she got tired of his travelling and early morning sermons often starting at 5 a.m.

He visited Ireland 21 times between 1747 and 1789. His visits usually lasted 2-3 months. The early morning sermons were unheard of in Ireland. He admired the kindness and generosity of the Irish especially the gentle courtesy of the country people. He visited every county in Ireland apart from Kerry. He travelled by canal from Dublin to Prosperous a few days before his 82nd birthday. He found great devotion and generosity and friendship among the Irish people and noted the good behaviour of the poor. He lived until he was almost 88. He continued to rise at 4 a.m. and kept up his travelling to the end. His last sermon was preached on Feb. 23rd and he died on March 2nd 1791. His last words were "God is with us". Ten thousand people filed past his coffin. His funeral had to be held before dawn because of unmanageable crowds.

(Adapted from resources - RE Dept. Wesley College)

Discuss:

1. What was the inspiration for John Wesley's work?
2. In what ways was his commitment to service distinctive in the Church of his time?
3. What impact did his work have on other people?

Assignment: Write a paragraph outlining the ways in which the work of John Wesley is an inspiring vision for the Methodist Church.