

12-16s learning about

Mission Aviation Fellowship

A charity with a Christian vision for serving isolated people around the world.



Lesson 4: Responding to suffering – a role play activity

In these lessons, students will tackle a role play activity to explore which projects MAF supports and how the different projects put MAF’s mission into action. They will develop discussion, reasoning and argument skills in relation to MAF’s projects and aims.

Key words: Christian / Bible Scripture / Kingdom of God / Global serving / Faith / Mission work / Communities / Poverty / Impact / Suffering / Human rights / Jesus Christ / Belief & teaching / Worldwide Church / Christian charity / Inclusion / Peace / Values / Influence / Fairness / Inequality / Roleplay

Connections to RE syllabuses:

These lesson ideas are provided to help 12-16-year-olds students of RS to learn about key ideas from the Bible, from global Christian communities and from MAF. The learning contributes to the aims of GCSE RS and other qualifications.

To the teacher: Why study MAF?

MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) is an example of a Christian charity. It works in partnership with some 2,000 Christian and relief organisations. MAF enables the swiftest delivery of practical help, emergency relief, medical assistance and spiritual hope to provide help, hope and healing to some of the remotest and most inaccessible communities on earth. Their amazing fleet of over 130 light aircraft can reach places others can’t get to and has grown from small beginnings more than 70 years ago. MAF supports both goals of Christian mission and humanitarian compassion.

RE aims: In line with the requirements of GCSE, these lessons will enable students to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Christianity, including some key sources of wisdom and authority from the Bible
- Understand, discuss and debate ways in which faith influences individuals, communities and societies through a role play
- Apply their knowledge and understanding in order to analyse questions related to Christian beliefs and values
- Construct well-informed and balanced arguments about how MAF might prioritise the projects it supports, reflecting on Christian values and beliefs.

RS learning outcomes:

Through this work, students will:

- Explore global examples of the Christian mission of MAF
- Consider and discuss questions about the meaning of Christian mission and the ‘Kingdom of God’
- Apply key concepts from Christianity to contemporary moral issues
- Argue about some varied understandings of Christian mission in the contemporary world
- Analyse and debate how MAF puts biblical ideas into action
- Evaluate the ways in which MAF seeks to follow the teaching and example of Jesus.

Curriculum connections:

GCSE Religious Study: Students study the place of Christian mission, evangelism, church growth, the role of the church in the local community and the importance of the worldwide Church. They learn about Jesus as a role model, the Kingdom of God and belief in the Church as the ‘Body of Christ’.

RMPS in Scotland: Students develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and values, developing the ability to explain Christian beliefs in relation to biblical ideas; gaining insight into how beliefs and values affect the lives of Christians.

British Values: Students explore the meanings of values including individual liberty and respect for all.

Understanding Christianity: Students develop their understanding of key Christian concepts including creation, the people of God, salvation, the Gospel and the Kingdom of God.

Biblical connections: How do sources of wisdom and authority inspire the work of MAF?

These lessons will enable students to think for themselves about biblical teaching. Each MAF project is connected to a biblical quotation, and six general quotations are provided as a resource sheet for thinking about the work as a whole. The range of biblical texts used asks students to think for themselves about the ways sources of wisdom inspire Christian communities, in line with examination requirements.

Religious Education: Learning activities

The 4 lessons in this series encourage students to consider questions from the syllabus about Christian mission, global community and Scripture. Groups of pupils participate in a role play which simulates staff at MAF deciding how to use their resources in the face of more requests for help than they can meet. This is in some ways a semi-false setup but it focuses learning on the priorities of MAF and the nature and scope of its work, whilst also asking learners to apply their understanding of key Christian Scriptures. This page outlines the teacher's role. The following pages may be copied for students to use.

Preparing for the role play

You will find it helpful to think about what your students already know about Christian mission in all its diversity. The lesson uses eight simplified MAF project possibilities to role play a 'resources/funding committee' in the charity. Groups of four students take decisions about how MAF aims and policies should be applied, using and applying biblical ideas of the Gospel, peace, justice and community to develop reasons for their suggested decisions. The activity is rather stylised, and the case studies are not fully detailed, but the dilemma is worth considering: limited charitable resources make for tough decisions. The role play engages students with decisions about what it means to be a global Christian mission.

Learning method

Group role play for four students. Biblical reflection and possibly extended writing practice, focusing on evaluation skills needed in GCSE and Scottish RMPS examinations.

Practicalities

Make copied sets of eight cards (**pages 5 and 6**) for each group of four students in an envelope and provide each learner with a sheet to record their ideas (**page 7**). They begin by reading **one** of the project ideas each, and try to justify the project they've just read in their group. Which one of the projects should they definitely support?

Extending the learning

Stage two asks the four members of the group to read a **second** project. At this point, tell them they have a total budget of £60,000 which might enable them to take on 3-6 of the 8 activities. Which should be chosen? They are to refer to MAF's statement of purpose/mission statement (**page 3**). Also refer to the Bible's teachings (**page 4**). When your classroom groups have had a go at this, run a whole class discussion prioritising the eight projects in the light of learning about MAF and about Christian mission generally.

Engagement

Students will find it engaging to consider these questions about each of the partner possibilities:

1. Does this project serve isolated people?
2. Does this project share the love of God?
3. Does this project share the Good News of Jesus Christ?
4. Does this project promote peace?
5. Does this project do something other charities cannot do?
6. Does the project put Christian values into action?
7. Is this project in line with MAF's mission statement?

Controversy and debate

The foundation of this learning activity is in argument. There's £108,000 worth of bids, but only £60,000 to use. Encourage vigorous reasoning and argument. This is where the learning happens.

Theological and religious background

Make sure the learners are able to see the relevance of the biblical ideas on the recording sheet (**page 7**), and can apply these to the examples given. Key theological ideas include the dignity of humanity, developed from the idea of God as Creator, the possibility of redemption through the Gospel and living life to the full for individuals or communities, the power of Christian values such as hope and love to change people's circumstances and the significance of generosity as an agent of change.

Imaginative extension: homework

You could ask the students to imagine these eight projects one year on, and write a report to the charity. They should imagine that the money has been spent, one big thing has gone wrong, but three other things have gone well. How would the charity evaluate its spending?

MAF information sheet

MAF sums up its purpose like this: *'For more than 70 years, MAF has been flying light aircraft over jungles, mountains, swamps and deserts. We enable over 2,000 aid, development and mission organisations to bring medical care, emergency relief, long-term development and Christian hope to thousands of communities.'*

Example of an MAF publication:

'MAF uses planes to bring help, hope and healing to isolated people in need. We believe everyone deserves access to hope. That's why we fly relief, healthcare, education and God's love to those who cannot be reached overland.'

You helped us buy a plane!



Recent projects

Current and recent MAF projects include:

- Responding to the emergency needs in Mozambique in 2019 in the first week after the flooding.
- Flying Ebola vaccines to where they were needed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
- Flying emergency relief into communities in Sulawesi cut off by the earthquake.
- Reuniting more than 100 children with their parents after the Indonesian earthquake and tsunami.
- Conducting aerial surveys of the damage done by typhoons and hurricanes in Indonesia, to assist aid agencies in planning the best way to respond.
- Flying workers and resources into refugee camps on the Uganda/South Sudan border in less than half the time taken by other transport.
- Delivering 8,000 hygiene kits, 17,000 blankets and more than 50,000 litres of clean water to people affected by hurricanes in Dominica and Puerto Rico.
- Flying emergency aid to Sumatran victims of a gigantic mudslide that destroyed 757 homes, 4 churches and a mosque.

MAF’s work and the Bible’s vision of human life in all its fullness

<p>Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)</p>	<p>Bible ideas: How do they connect? Are any of these ideas relevant to a Christian charity which is trying to make the world more just, more peaceful and more equal?</p>	
<p>‘MAF HAS A MISSION to the people in the world who are most isolated, where our planes can make all the difference between life lived in its fullness, which Jesus wanted, and problems caused by poverty, disease or a lack of education.</p> <p>‘In the name of Jesus, we aim to be good news wherever we fly. We work in partnership with churches and other charities. We support anyone in need, to show the love of Jesus.’</p>	<p>Jesus said, ‘Don’t store up treasures for yourself on earth, where moth eats and rust ruins, but store up treasure in heaven... where your treasure is, there your heart will be too.’</p>	<p>Jesus said, ‘I have come so that people may have life in all its fullness.’</p>
	<p>Jesus said, ‘Blessed are the peacemakers. They will be called God’s children.’</p>	<p>The book of Genesis says, ‘God created humanity in His own image, male and female He created them... and saw that it was very good.’</p>
	<p>The apostle Paul said, ‘These three things really last: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.’</p>	<p>The apostle James said, ‘What good is it my brothers and sisters if one claims to have faith but does no good deeds?’</p>

Cut, arrange, stick, connect: Work with a partner. Cut up this sheet and lay out the seven boxes on a large sheet of A3 paper. Put the yellow ‘MAF has a mission...’ box in the middle. Arrange the others in what you consider to be the most logical order and spacing, leaving spaces between each segment. Stick them down.

Link lines: Draw connection lines wherever you see a link between the ideas, and write onto the line the reason why you think these two segments are connected. A link might be about one word, a big idea, or something you think is relevant.

Round the class: Compare your finished pattern of links with another pair’s work. What good ideas did they have which you missed? Add more ideas to this piece of work.

Arguments: Could MAF be seen as generous or manipulative? Is evangelism always coercive?

Some say that MAF’s work is a kind of way of pressurising or coercing people to become Christians. They suggest that it’s manipulative for a Christian charity to offer flights to people in need, because it might pressurise people or act as a kind of unfair persuasion. Those who make this argument reject MAF’s idea of mission – to bring spiritual hope and meet people’s spiritual needs.

Others say that any organisation that offers help to people in need should be welcomed. They argue that Christian motivation is what started the charity and keeps it going, and that Christian generosity funds it. Offering the chance to consider becoming a Christian is not done coercively, and there’s no pressure – so what’s ‘not to like’?

There are countries that MAF operates in where they don’t operate under the MAF name and must avoid discussion of evangelism and mission work, due to cultural sensitivities and protecting MAF staff. Instead, MAF focuses on the purely physical needs of the country through humanitarian work.

What are the arguments on both sides? What’s your view?

Examination practice: RE and RMPS exams ask students to make connections and links like this. Take your finished sheet, and turn it into a 12-mark essay answer to the question: ‘How effectively do you think MAF puts the Bible’s teaching into action? Give examples and arguments to support your viewpoint.’ Aim to write your answer in less than 25 minutes.

Role play activity

Which of the eight project ideas for MAF charity action would you support with £60,000?

You will learn more about how MAF works by role playing a charity funding committee. MAF has lots of requests for help but cannot do everything. £60,00 won't cover all the projects. Follow your teacher's instructions to consider the projects you think should be supported, based on your learning about biblical teaching and the mission of the charity. Which ones would you prioritise and why? Each person in the group should speak up for two of the projects, arguing the best case you can. Any projects chosen must be fully funded, not part funded.

<p>After the hurricane in Haiti. Key priority: Medical care and healing A hurricane can leave people homeless, hungry and in medical danger from diseases. In 2016, 20,000 Haitians in a remote village were left without homes and medical care after a hurricane struck. Road convoys, trying to supply the local hospital with drugs and medical basics, were often hijacked and their supplies stolen. Could MAF fly once a week for three months to take doctors, nurses and medical supplies to an airstrip near the hospital?</p> <p>Jesus said in Matthew 25, 'Whenever you see anyone hungry or unwell and you give food or healing, then you do it for me.'</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Project costs: £18 000</p>	<p>After the earthquake in Papua New Guinea. Key priority: Emergency food aid Remote villages in Papua New Guinea were left cut off after an earthquake caused landslides and roads were destroyed. MAF planes were able to take food to mountain villages to keep people alive. MAF's pilot said that groups of people shed tears of joy when the food arrived. 'We need to be able to return to these villages on a weekly basis to continue to provide emergency relief for the next two months at least. We are saving lives for more than 3,000 people.'</p> <p>1 John 3:17 teaches: 'If we are rich and see others in need, yet close our hearts against them, how can we claim that we love God?'</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Project costs: £16 000</p>
<p>Community cooking pots for refugee camps in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Key priority: Community feeding programme MAF aircrew visited a refugee camp where more than 100,000 people were living in temporary shelters. Many were hungry and there wasn't enough rice. But even some who had basic foodstuffs couldn't cook. A group of Christian refugees asked if the MAF plane could deliver a large pot, along with the rice the refugees needed for basic diet. So MAF found a huge 300-litre pot and returned with this and a large supply of rice. Now the Christian group can cook for themselves and other refugees in a fair and economical manner. Project idea: fly these huge cooking pots to refugee camps, free, wherever groups of Christians run feeding centres – helping 2,000 people.</p> <p>Isaiah 58:7 tells God's people to 'share your food with the hungry. Give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them.'</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Project cost: £12,000</p>	<p>Securing future resources through fundraising and charity development in the UK. Key priority: Raising funds for MAF projects It's important for charities to raise funds for future programmes. Although this doesn't sound very glamorous, MAF needs more than £12 million a year to run its programmes. About 50% of the money comes from individuals and about 15% from churches. Roughly 25% comes from legacies. The charity needs to write newsletters and appeals to its supporters to keep them informed about the work and to invite them to continue supporting MAF. Although creating and sharing educational materials doesn't represent a major cost to MAF, spending an extra £6,000 on communications might result in many more donations and legacies coming in. Perhaps this money will multiply tenfold!</p> <p>In Acts 20:35, Jesus taught that 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Project cost: £8,000</p>

Carrying out medical emergency flights to hospitals in Mongolia.

Key priority: Life-saving medevacs

Much of Mongolia is sparsely populated desert, so medical emergency flights to the nearest hospital literally save lives. MAF pilot Roy Rissanen flew out one morning at 5am to rescue an eight-month-old baby who had turned yellow with a life-threatening condition. He says, 'We get a high number of medevac calls and are able to save a lot of lives in Mongolia. Our experience of working with healthcare professionals is very positive. We feel confident to fly when we know that patients on board will be well looked after and can be kept stable during the flights.' A nurse flew with the baby and used a life-support system on the plane. The alternative was a 311-mile road journey. The baby's life was saved! MAF wants to continue to provide medevacs in Mongolia for the next six months.

In Mark 9:37, Jesus says, 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me.'

Project cost: £18,000

The Bible in Baka for South Sudan.

Key priority: Supporting Christian communities by providing access to God's Word

The area of Maridi is completely cut off: even the United Nations hasn't been able to send a convoy there for five years. But the Baka Christian community has just had the Bible published in its own language. Three hundred boxes were printed. But how to get them to the people? MAF provided a plane to transport the Scriptures, and a celebration service for the Bible in their own language was attended by more than 7,000 people. When the boxes were opened, the people finally had the Bible in their own language. One elderly lady, Mama Eunice, bought her own for less than £1: 'I was so very happy! As I held my own Baka Bible, I felt the Holy Spirit blow over me. Finally, I am able to read and understand God's Word in my own language.' MAF wants to continue to support Bible distribution wherever possible.

Saint Paul teaches in 2 Timothy 3:16 that, 'All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for learning.'

Project cost: £10,000

15,000 chicks flying to Timor-Leste villages.

Key priority: Defeating poverty by helping small businesses

In Timor-Leste, people are working hard to escape poverty. One local business raises chickens to sell in the countryside. The baby chicks, which travel in crates, get distressed and ill during the road journey. By flying crates of chicks to farms, they arrive healthy and happy. Once grown, they can feed thousands of people. The chicken farmers of Timor-Leste pay some money towards the MAF flights, but can't afford the full cost. MAF is keen to provide another six months of subsidised transport to help take farmers out of poverty.

Saint Paul says in Galatians 6:2, 'You obey the law of Christ when you offer each other a helping hand.'

Project cost: £10,000

A mine free Angola by 2025?

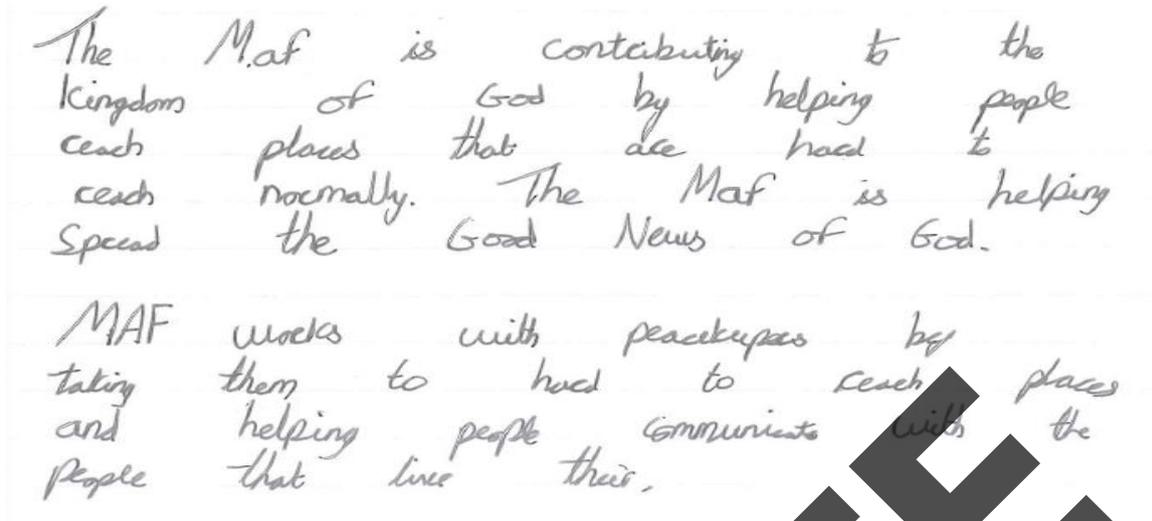
Key priority: Peace making

After its harrowing civil war, Angola still has many minefields where no one can farm or work, and where children have been injured and killed by weapons left behind after the war. MAF works to enable HALO, a mine clearing and weapons destroying charity to do its work. Prince Harry supports HALO, as did his mother, Princess Diana. Frequent MAF flyers, HALO workers have destroyed 92,000 landmines from 800 minefields. MAF is proud to offer cheap or free flights to HALO's brave staff. MAF wants to continue to offer this service as more landmines are cleared, so that land can one day be safe for farming.

Jesus taught, in Matthew 5:9, 'Happy are the peacemakers. They will be called the children of God.'

Project cost: £16,000

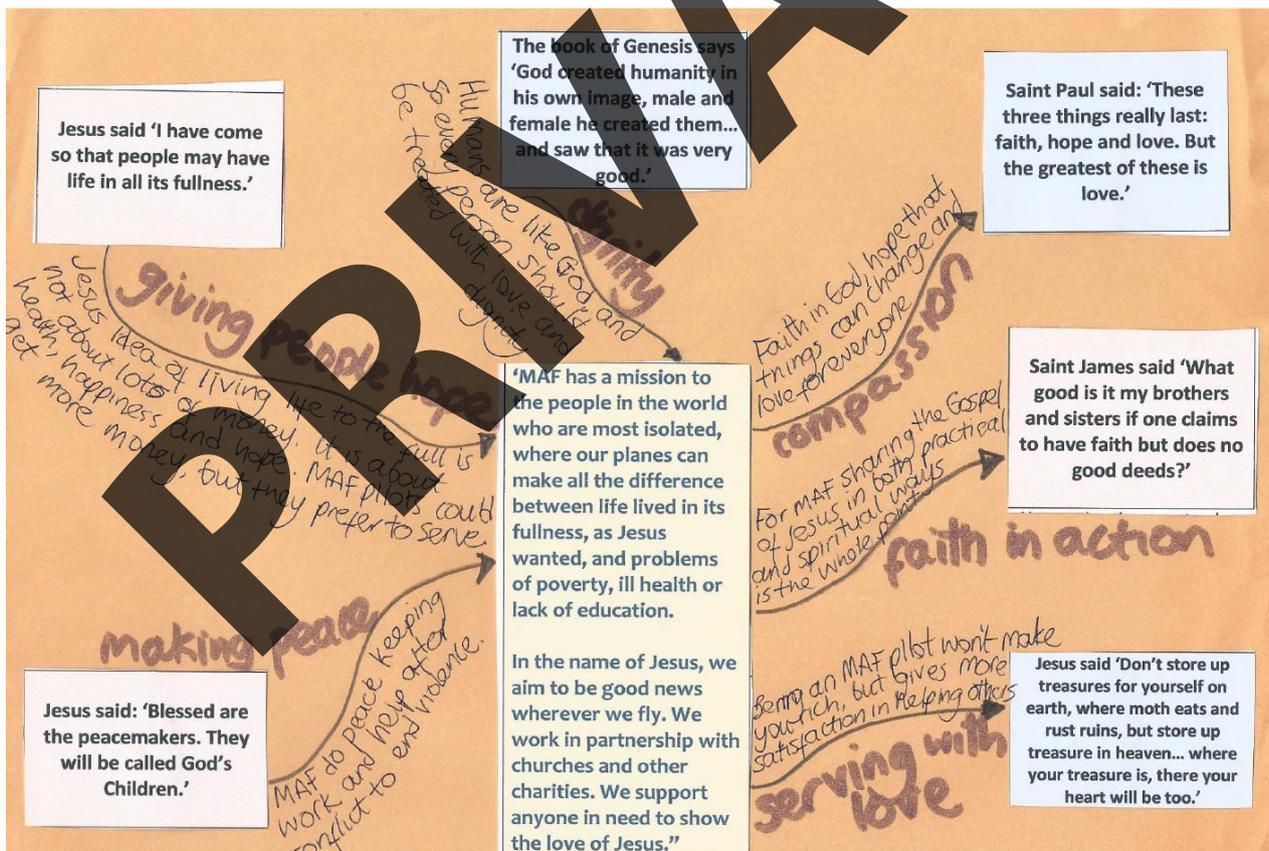
Does MAF contribute to bringing in the ‘Kingdom of God’ (The Lord’s Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13, says, ‘Your Kingdom come’)



This student gives a simple expression of aspects of the Kingdom of God in action.

Connecting Scripture to MAF’s work

This activity explores the connections between Christian belief, the Bible and its impact on the work of MAF. A very important skill in GCSE RS is to connect sources of authority with practice.



For more information about MAF, visit: www.maf-uk.org
 For more stories about the work of MAF, visit: www.maf-uk.org/how-we-help/stories
 For more games and other resources to use in schools or with young people visit:
www.maf-uk.org/youth/resources