

**PHILOSOPHY,  
RELIGION &  
ETHICS WORK  
BOOKLET - YR8**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

# **WHAT IS 'CHARITY' ALL ABOUT?**

## **To Die a Billionaire?**

a) Imagine you were one of the richest people on planet Earth. You're getting older. You know 'you can't take your money with you'. What might you do? Explain your answer.

b) Here are four things you could do with your money. Write what you think about the suggestion and why you think this.

1. Spend it all on whatever you fancy! Some crazy, some sensible.
  
2. Pass it on to people you like.
  
3. Give it all away to a good cause - all of it.
  
4. Keep it in the bank. It's yours - once you're dead the bank can do what it likes with it!
  
5. Give some away. Keep some.

c) What are the advantages and disadvantages of giving to charity? Fill in the table below:

Way of giving	Advantage	Disadvantage
Giving to collectors at special times of the year		
Responding to a TV programme/appeal, e.g. Children in Need		
Giving money straight off your wages		
Sponsoring/adopting someone in need		
Buying a raffle ticket		
Giving a certain amount regularly		
Joining a charitable organisation		
Giving a percentage of your income		
Buying a lottery ticket		

## What do Christians believe about charity?

Read the following version of the Bible story of the rich young man and then complete the tasks that follow.

*A man came to Jesus once. 'What do I have to do to get eternal life?' he asked. Jesus told him, 'Keep the commandments.' 'But I've kept them all,' said the young man. 'What else do I have to do?' Jesus said, 'If you want to be perfect, sell everything you own and give the money to the poor. All your riches will be in*

*heaven then, and you can follow me.'* The young man walked away. He was sad because he was very rich. Jesus turned to his followers: *'It will be very hard for rich people to get into the kingdom of heaven.'* **Matthew 19:16-25** (Type **Matthew 19:16-25** into **Google** to find this story.)

a) Imagine you were the rich young man. As you walk home, what thoughts are going through your head? What are you going to do?

b) You are a follower of Jesus who just witnessed these events. You are quite rich, too. What further questions might you ask Jesus?

c) Imagine you have been asked to speak to a group of millionaire Christians. You have to use the story in Matthew 19:16-25. Write down here some of the things you might say to them. Can they be Christians and be rich too?

d) Look up Mark 12:41-44 from the Bible on Google and read it (or if you have a Bible, look in there!)

e) Think about what might have led up to the widow putting her two copper coins into the collection box at the Temple. Then write an imaginative account (on separate paper or on the back of the booklet) of the events that led up to this. You can start it wherever you like, but your last line should be: *'...and so I let those two little copper coins fall from my hand into the box. Not much, I know, but all that I had.'*

f) Think through this story. What does it mean? Are there any problems? Answer the following questions:

1. What message is Jesus giving here?
2. What do you think 'Give as much as you can' should mean for a Christian today?

3. Do you think Jesus was too harsh on the rich people who dropped their money in too?
4. Christians give money to their Church today - what might be good and bad about this? (Hint: How do some Churches spend their money?)
5. If you know any Christians, how well do you think they follow the widow's example?
6. Do you think it is right to expect people to give away their hard-earned cash?
7. Why were the widow's coins 'worth' more?

## **Christian Charity in Action**

- Design an information leaflet or website page on either Christian Aid or the Salvation Army by researching them on the internet.
- Use the list below for the areas to be covered. Include different types of material, for example, illustrations, quotes from the organisation, information about the organisation, internet articles, promotional materials from the organisation, and so on.

### **Organisation**

**History of the organisation**

**What the organisation does today**

**A case study of the organisation's work**

**The beliefs this work is based on**

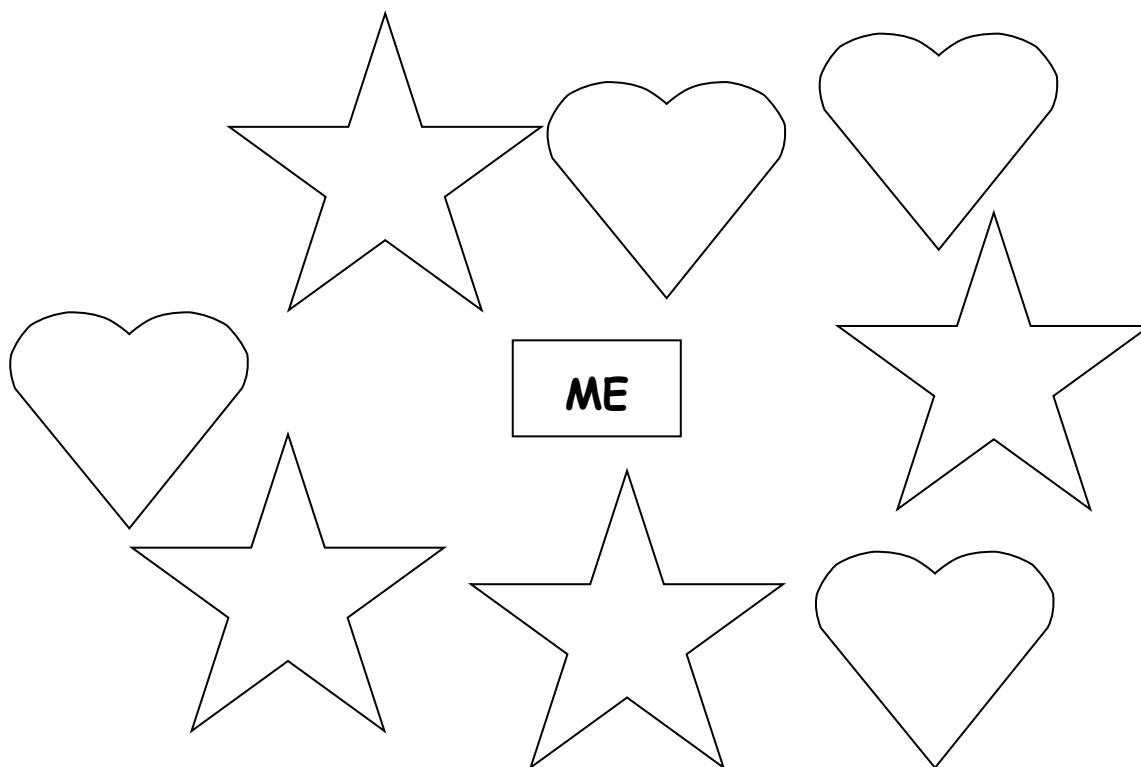
# What do Muslims believe about charity?

## **Hungry and Homeless?**

a) Muslims believe that the homeless are a chance to show your concern for others. Do you agree with this? Why/why not?

b) Read the following statement: 'In Britain, there's no need for beggars on our streets. They should be told to clear off.' Write at least two arguments for and two arguments against this statement and then your own opinion.

c) In the stars, write the names of people/groups who need you. In the hearts, write the names of people/groups who you need and depend on to live. The closer to the 'ME' box means the more they need you or you need them. Add more stars or hearts if you need to.



#### d) Work out your own Zakat

Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam and so is very important for every Muslim to practice. It is a way of blessing others through charity, normally by giving 2.5% of a person's savings and wealth on an annual (yearly) basis.

- i) Work out your 'yearly' income', e.g. pocket money, birthday money, other gifts, payment for washing the car, and so on.
- ii) Work out what you need to spend of this.
- iii) Now work out your zakat for the year (2.5% of what is left).

#### e) Zakat - Pain or Pleasure?

Depending on your point of view, zakat is either a duty that you do happily, or a duty that is a chore. Put the following statements under one of two headings:

**Zakat - Pain**

**Zakat - Pleasure**

- It helps me feel less attached to my money.

- It means I can't always get what I want.
- It reminds me that everything comes from Allah.
- It is hard to work out.
- It doesn't make me feel any more religious.
- I can be a good Muslim without it.
- I feel good when I give zakat.
- It helps those in need.
- I can give more if I want to.
- I can give, then I don't have to do anything else.
- It's just a ritual that doesn't mean anything.
- It keeps traditions going.
- It means you can avoid doing good things by just paying up.
- It brings you closer to Allah.
- It helps you to know what it's like to be poor.

Zakat - Pain	Zakat - Pleasure