

Year 5

Rights and Responsibilities

BIG QUESTION: What are rights?

Every human being regardless of their background or circumstances has equal rights as a person. These rights come not from the government but from the fact that they are created in the image and likeness of God. Many nations have gone on to recognise that human beings have basic rights as outlined in the International Declaration of Human Rights. However, the human rights that the Catholic Church speaks of, go much further.

With our human rights come great responsibilities for us and for one another. All people have the right to a fair share of the world's resources so that their basic needs can be met. The right to life and the need for food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical attention, security in case of sickness or inability to work through old age, or any other situation when, due to circumstances not of their own making, a person is not able to provide for themselves. With these natural rights come responsibilities to respect the rights of each person.

Key Vocabulary

rights

responsibilities

equal

Human Rights

respect



Everyone should share what he or she does not need when there are people who lack the necessities to live a dignified life. In order to ensure the common good, we must protect the human rights as well as meet our responsibility for the rights of others, the good of the individual, for the family and the wider community.

“Seek the welfare of the city, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

(Jeremiah 29:4-7)

“Just as you did it to the least of these, you did it to me.”

(Matthew 25: 31-46)

“God’s gifts are given to be shared.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

Task: What do you think are a person’s basic human rights. Write them down.

Now look at the full meaning of the word responsibility. What do you feel about having responsibility? What are the challenges of having responsibilities?

Look up the 30 Articles of Human Rights:

<http://www.youthforhumanrights.org/what-are-human-rights.html>



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BIG QUESTION: What is the difference between rights and responsibilities?

Task: Research the 30 Articles of Human Rights.



Which articles ask you to take care of and respect other people?

Are there any human rights that are not being kept in your community? If so which ones and why do you think this is?

Music Task

Research both religious music and pop music to find as many examples as you can of music which speaks of freedom.



Art Task: Create a poster which shows Rights on one side and Responsibilities on the other.

Reading Task: Can you find any stories about freedom?

Creative Writing Task:

Compose your own poem, song or rap on the theme of freedom.

