Religious Studies: Growing with Values

Fairness

1

Have you ever felt something wasn't fair? Maybe someone pushed ahead of you in line at the movies. Maybe your friend got a brand-new bike when you didn't have a bike at all. Maybe your brother can stay up later than you. Maybe the whole class had to miss recess even though only a few were misbehaving. Maybe you wish you had a dad who coached soccer, like your neighbor's stepdad does. Maybe, someone you love got sick or hurt.

And maybe your dad, mom, or teacher has told you, "That's just the way life is. Life isn't always fair." You may wonder, "Why not?" or, you might think, "If that's how life is, should I try to be fair?'

2

When you're fair, other people like, trust, and respect you more. They see you as a person who's honest and who cares about others. They can look to you to be a leader and learn from your example. When you treat them fairly, they're more likely to start acting the same way.



Fairness means treating other people the way you want to be treated. It means trying to give everyone rights and chances like those you have. When you're fair, you do your share, take turns, and treat each person with respect. You try to make things "fair and square".

3

Fairness doesn't mean that everything is equal or the same. For example, you may wish you had a dog like your friend does. But your friend lives in a house, and you live in an apartment, where dogs aren't allowed. You can still treat your friend fairly – and play with her dog when you visit.

Lots of things in the world aren't fair. It's not fair that people are hungry or homeless. It's not fair that people suffer in wars. It's not fair that in some parts of the world, children have to work instead of going to school. Many people are aware of these problems and are trying to change things for the better. It takes time and effort to work for fairness. Imagine a world where no one was ever fair. What would it be like? Everyone would be selfish. No one would care about anyone else. Would you want to live in that kind of world? We all need to do our best to be fair? Every act of fairness makes the world a better place.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Comprehension Check: Answer the questions after you have read the passage at least 2 times.

1. What are THREE things that will happen to you when you are fair?
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. How do people see you when you are fair?
   _____
   _____

3. Define the term 'fairness'.
   _____
   _____

4. According to the passage, what are THREE things that are not fair.
   _____
   _____
   _____



LIVEWORKSHEETS