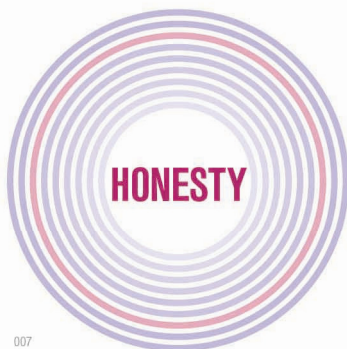
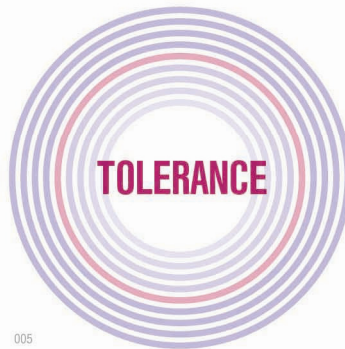
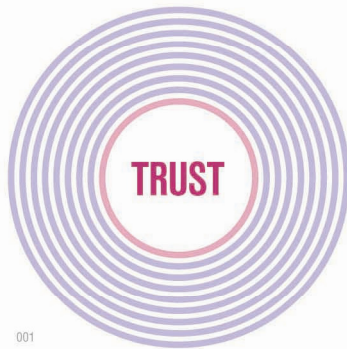


learningforlife



Examining other lives

This activity is suitable for Key stage 3 or 4 students. It considers an Obituary for Sir John Templeton and asks students to consider what values he held.

This exercise can be used in a lesson focussing specifically on values e.g. within PHSE/ Citizenship. Equally, it can be used as a means of considering values cross curricularly e.g in Business Studies. It provides opportunity for considering ethics in business- e.g. sharp practice, using money wisely, treatment of others, etc.

Other issues you might want to consider with your students are:

Can you be a person with values and work within the financial world where there is the potential to make a lot of money?

What is ethical practice in business?

Do they consider that Sir John Templeton to be a good person?

Sir John Templeton

Sir John Marks Templeton died on 8th July 2008, aged 95. A talented fund manager and philanthropist, he used the money he made to promote spiritual and religious progress.

The son of a lawyer/ cotton merchant in a small town in Tennessee, USA, John Marks Templeton was born on the 12 November 1912 and grew up in a strict Presbyterian home. An intelligent boy, John showed early signs of leadership, when at 15 he became a leader at his local Sunday school. His determination and ability to persevere in the face of setbacks was seen again in his second year at Yale whilst studying economics; his father lost much of his money and could no longer afford to pay his son's fees. John immediately responded by establishing a student newspaper in which he sold advertising space and by winning various scholarships. He finished his time at Yale University as a top scholar winning a Rhodes scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford to study law.

In 1937, returning to America, just as the great Depression was beginning to cast its shadow, he secured his first job with a company on Wall Street. Not long in his new position, he was approached by a Texas oil magnate who appointed him as director of finance within his own company. John had already started investing in the stock market on his own account, when in 1939, deciding that the Second World War would lift America out of the Depression, he started to buy 100's of shares in stock selling for less than \$1 a share. Four years later, his \$10, 000 investment had increased by 4 times.

Throughout the 1950's and 1960's, often working up to 80 hours a week, he built up his company from one which managed \$2 million dollars in 1940 to one which, 27 years later, managed \$400 million. He believed strongly in the ethics of business, going as far as to say the if a company is not ethical "it will fail, perhaps not right away, but eventually".

From the 1970's he spent much time and money promoting the 'spiritual wealth' of the world. He invested money in both schools and universities which promoted 'traditional educational values' and

in schools which encouraged 'character development'. He devoted time to writing books on religion and spirituality, once again highlighting his enduring optimism and reflected in the following statements taken from his books: 'Every ending is a new beginning' and 'what the mind can conceive it can achieve'. In 1973 he established the Templeton prize for Progress in Religion (worth £1 million today), winners of which included Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

John Templeton was a man with flawless manners and dress sense. Despite his exterior calm in all situations, his life was not without tragedy. His wife Judith died in a cycling accident, leaving him to look after their three young children. Templeton remained a widower for almost 8 years, until in 1958 he married a widow. The marriage evidently won the approval of one of Templeton's sons, who two years earlier had said to the lady, the mother of one of his friends: 'If you are ever thinking of getting married again, would you please consider my father?'

(Source: Adapted from the Daily Telegraph obituaries—9th July 2008)

Questions

1. Did this man have values?
2. Summarise in one sentence why you think he was a man with values?
3. Do you think Sir John Templeton was a good person?
4. List his values.
5. Do you think these values are worth having?
6. Do you have these values?
7. How could you develop these values in yourself?

Definitions:

Fund Manager-Person responsible for investing and managing the assets (stocks, bonds etc) of other

Philanthropist-a person who loves humanity and gives his/her time and/or money to charitable/social causes

The Depression- A global economic downturn which started in 1929 and took some places until the 1940's to recover.

Wall Street-The main financial centre of New York

Magnate- a person who has reached a very high level in a particular business and made much money out of it.

Ethics-the principles of conduct governing our behaviour in relation to right and wrong.