



*Teachers notes:*

*This lesson plan focuses on a school for Burmese/ Karen refugees living in Mae Sot Thailand.*

*These people have suffered from years of oppression politically, economically, and educationally by the military junta in Burma. Most of the refugees are fleeing battles between Burmese and Karen National Union Troops. For many of the Karen people life is a fight for their existence and survival. The Karen/ Burmese conflict is the longest war of independence. Many have fled to Thailand, some have been lucky enough to reach Hsa Thoo Lei school and orphanage.*

*This lesson plan can be used as RE KS 3 'Why Do We Suffer'*

*For more information please see: <http://www.thaichildrenstrust.org.uk/projects/Refugee?tab=details>*

### Objectives for lessons

To understand why it is important for people from different religions to be at peace with each other.

### Introduction

Inform students they will be learning about children that have fled Burma to seek safety in refugee camps in Thailand. Show students map location of Thailand / Burma. Ask students to identify Religions of bordering countries.

Show video clip: <http://www.thaichildrenstrust.org.uk/getinvolved/hsa-thoo-lei-lesson-plan>

*Ask students for responses to the video clip.*

Main activity. Read the following statement to students:

“School finishes at 3:30. Orphanage students will then have some free time until 5:00 when they will practice ‘devotion’. Karen students are either Christian or Buddhist. The Burmese students are either Buddhist or Hindu, (remembering introduction activity) During this time of devotion students learn to respect each others differences and understand the importance of working together and being united. Despite religious and cultural differences all students are happy to be in one another’s company”

Show picture of the notices posted on the school doors (Resources below): *Love those who hate you, pray for those who defame and persecute you, bless those who curse you, love each other as you love yourself.*

*Discuss or write a paragraph why it is important for these children from different religions to be at peace with each other. Why is it necessary for them to practice devotion every day and to uphold these values?*

Plenary.

Brainstorm a fundraising activity the class can complete to raise money for Hsa Thoo Lei School.

For further lesson plans and resources, or to subscribe to our school newsletter please contact [rflanagan@thaichildrenstrust.org.uk](mailto:rflanagan@thaichildrenstrust.org.uk)





### Proverbial Words

- ❖ Love those who hate you.
- ❖ Pray for those who defame and persecute you
- ❖ Bless those who curse you
- ❖ Love each other as you love yourself