

<p>Week: 3.5.21-28.5.21</p>	<p>Core Value Focus: Justice & Equality</p>
<p>Scripture Link: “Learn to do right, seek justice and defend the oppressed” Isaiah 1:17</p>	<p>Message from the Principal: Developing character is an important part of our work here at Queen Elizabeth’s. Of our 9 core values, we are particularly proud of Justice and Equality. We have invested time and attention to our charity work to help the less fortunate in our community and to help “defend the oppressed”. Prior to the pandemic we opened our doors for Boxing Day Brunch and very much look forward to the days that we can do so again. More recently we have been proud to support the Baptist Church’s Bags of Hope initiative and the Ladybrook Community Centre food bank. Our students have supported us admirably and have certainly learned to do right. Like the Parable of the Good Samaritan, which inspires our vision, we do not walk by, we stop, and we help. If you are interested in helping to support these amazing projects please do contact us.</p>
<p>Message from the Chaplain: <u>Moses Stood up for the Oppressed</u> ‘Let my people go’. That was what God told Moses to say to Pharaoh about the Hebrews. At that time God’s people were slave workers not allowed the freedom to worship God. Moses stood up for his oppressed people and took God’s message and warning to the Pharaoh. We can learn a lot from Moses standing up and being brave. Earlier in his life though Moses made a big mistake. He saw an Egyptian master mistreating a slave and Moses rose up and killed the master. In justice we must not forget peace. <u>William Wilberforce: Abolitionist</u></p>	<p>Discussion points:</p> <p>What motivates us to stand up for others?</p> <p>How can we fight for justice in our country and in the world?</p> <p>How can we make sure we do so with peace and not for revenge?</p> <p>If we are ‘made in God’s image’ how should we treat each other?</p> <p>What would life be like as a Hebrew slave of Pharaoh?</p>

With similar bravery to Moses William Wilberforce was instrumental in abolishing slavery in our country. He saw his role in parliament as serving in politics but also serving God. In his diary in 1787 he wrote "God Almighty has set before me two great objects, the suppression of the Slave Trade and the Reformation of Manners [moral values]". Christians today stand on the truth of Genesis 1:26 that mankind is made in the image of God to bring equality and justice to people who are oppressed.

Jesus himself said:

"The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to *the* poor;
He has sent Me ^{to} to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to *the* captives...
To set at liberty those who are oppressed..."
Luke 4:18

Jesus was talking about the ultimate freedom of a healed heart and freedom from guilt and the spiritual captivity. Jesus' message is one of freedom for any and everyone who chooses it.

What can we do about human trafficking and modern slavery today?

Why has slavery existed since records began and in every place in the world?

How can we be inspired like Wilberforce?
What can we do today?

What does 'spiritual captivity' mean for Christians?

How does Jesus' message bring spiritual freedom?