

Good actions

Biblical Material: Proverbs 20.11. Matthew 7. 16-20

‘People show what they are by what they do.’

‘You will know what people are like by the fruit they bear.’

You will need:

- A magnifying glass (optional).
- An orange or apple.
- Large felt-tipped pen (optional).
- Paper and scissors (optional).
- A plastic drinking glass with fingerprints on it.

Introduction

Ask pupils to name some television detectives. Ask them about the sort of clues detectives look for when a robbery has been committed. Give pupils the glass and the magnifying glass and ask them to find the fingerprints.

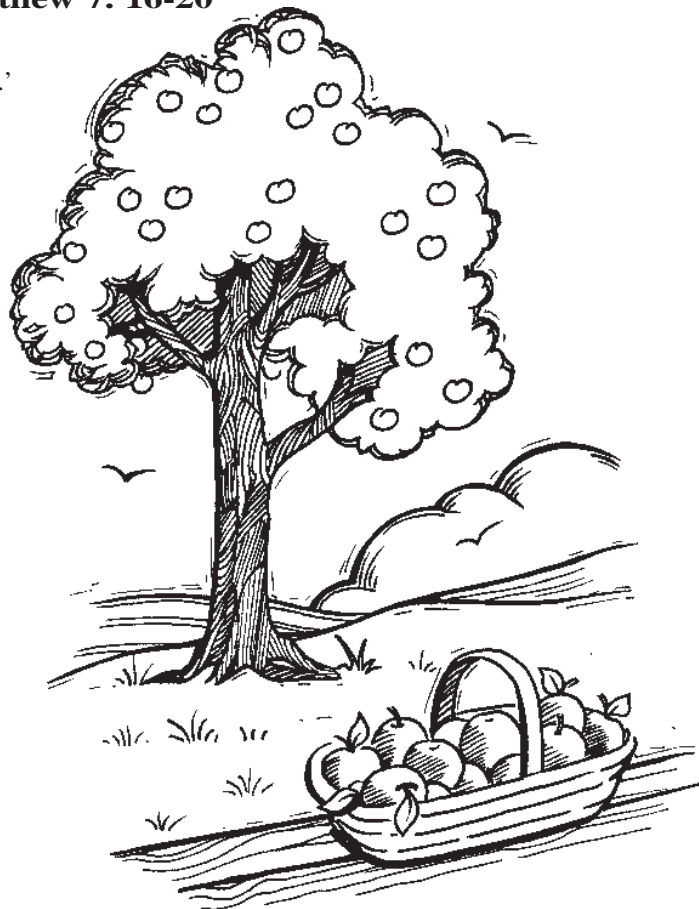
Core Material

Finding out what a person is like on the inside (their true character) is rather like being a detective. A magnifying glass is no use in this situation. It can't see into people's minds and hearts. How do you tell what someone is like on the inside? What clues can we look for? Ask the pupils for suggestions.

We usually have to work out someone's character from their actions. Read the Biblical Material. If someone produces loving behaviour, they are probably not an evil person. Jesus said a person is like a tree. You tell what type of tree it is by its fruit - an orange tree produces oranges, apple trees, apples. Good trees produce good fruit, rotten trees produce rotten fruit. In a similar way you tell a person by their actions. Good people produce good actions. In the Bible, it lists some of the good actions or 'fruits' that should grow on the 'tree' of a person's life. Pupils can cut out some simple apple shapes and write on them the Biblical 'fruits'. The 'fruits' mentioned in the Bible are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self control (Galatians 5. 22-23).

Prayer/Reflection

Nine pupils can each hold a paper apple with one of the Biblical 'fruits' on it. Each pupil can say the one line which goes with the fruit. After the prayers, ask the



pupils to select one 'fruit' and think about ways in which they could help it grow in their lives.

As we grow in your garden, Lord. Help us to produce good fruit - the fruits of:

Love, our world is desperate for love.

Kindness, the daily acts of practical love which make the world a better place.

Patience, enjoying the time you give us, not anxious to be on to the next thing.

Self control, gaining control over our own behaviour.

Faithfulness, being loyal to those we love.

Peace, bringing peace to those around us.

Joy, rejoicing in the good things in life.

Goodness, practising goodness in daily life.

Humility, holding a right view of ourselves: created, special but not perfect.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.