

Sincerity

Biblical Material: Proverbs 26.23

'Some people use words to hide what they are really thinking. Such talk is like an expensive glaze on a cheap pot.'

You will need:

- A clay pot without a glaze on it.
- A good pot with a fine glaze.
- Some paper cut as speech and thought bubbles.
- A thick felt-tipped pen.

Introduction

Show the two pots and ask the pupils to explain the difference. Explain what a glaze is. Glaze covers the cheap material the pot is made from. It makes it look good.

Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. Insincerity is when fine words are used to cover bad thoughts or actions, just as

glaze covers clay. It is when when thoughts don't match words or actions. It would be insincere if someone said they liked you but inside were thinking horrible thoughts about you. Ask pupils to suggest some ways of being insincere, using thought and speech bubbles.

Jesus said insincere people were like cups which had been washed on the outside but were still dirty on the inside (Matthew 23. 25-26). Some people sound good when they talk but are horrible inside. The Bible says that people should match their thoughts, their words and their actions so that others know what they are really like.

Prayer/Reflection

Stand the two bowls on a table. Read the Biblical Material again. Read the prayer below.

Life can be a matching game - thoughts matching words, words matching actions.

Help us, Father, to be sincere in all we think, say and do. May we never use fine words to cover selfish and unkind thoughts.

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

