# Looking to the interests of others: Andy Gourley

## Lesson overview

Andy Gourley is the founder and director of Red Frogs Australia, a global support program that provides help for young people who need relief from alcohol and drug-related issues. Red Frogs volunteers provide a positive peer presence at alcohol-fuelled events such as Schoolies weeks, supporting safe partying behaviours and providing alternative activities that engage young people in these environments.​

### Learning intentions

Students will learn about:

* What the Red Frogs organisation does to help look after young people
* How Red Frogs started
* How Christian faith and the desire to serve others motivates Andy Gourley and the Red Frogs volunteers

### Success criteria

Students will be able to:

* Identify some ways in which the Bible speaks about serving others
* Observe how the Red Frogs volunteers are like Jesus in the way they express love for others
* Create a poster that reflects the Christian values and motivation of the Red Frogs organisation.

### Note to teacher

One of the most impactful things that the Red Frogs volunteers do is to intervene in situations involving suicidal ideation. They save lives every year. Material about this aspect of their work has intentionally not been included in this lesson, as not all school contexts/classes will want to confront this subject directly. Be aware that if students explore the Red Frogs organisation further online or on social media (e.g. as part of one of the optional extension activities), they may encounter stories involving self-harm and suicide attempts.

### Bible content

Matthew 5:13–6; John 13:1–17; Romans 12:1–16; Galatians 5:13–14; Philippians 2:1–8.

### Link to Australian Curriculum

## General capabilities – Personal and Social Capability; Ethical Understanding

## Lesson plan

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| Preparing the lesson* View the video content and read the questions that accompany each segment.
* Read through the material provided and select the activities and Bible content you wish to use with your students.

**Note:** there are quite a few activities and Scripture passages provided for this lesson. You may wish to give greater focus to some activities and/or some Bible verses than others. You can omit or modify content as appropriate for your class and the time you have available.* Use the resources listed in ‘Further reading’ below if you wish to explore the topic more fully for your own reference before teaching.
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### A. Discussion starter (2 mins)

Optional (if school context allows): Bring some red frogs to share with the class. Don’t say anything at first: just give them one to each student and allow them to eat. (Alternatively, display a picture of a red frog.)

Ask students: *What’s the first thing you think of when you see a red frog?*

There’s a chance that some students will mention Schoolies. If they *do*, acknowledge them but ask them to save any further comments until after the videos.

If they *don’t*, say this: *Here’s a ‘riddle’ – what’s the connection between a red frog and Jesus?* Have some fun listening to a few ideas (if they have any), but don’t answer the question. If at this point someone mentions Schoolies, acknowledge them but ask them to save any further comments until after the videos.

If no-one has mentioned Schoolies by this point, check that students know what it is and ask them to share what they know about it.

(At this point you may also like to play a video from the Red Frogs website showing the Red Frogs in action – see ‘Further reading’ below for the link. **Note:** There is an oblique reference to rescue from suicide in this video. View before using to ensure it is suitable for your students.)

### B. Show video segment 1 (approx. 8 mins including questions)

While the video is playing/after it has finished, ask students to write answers to the following viewing and listening questions:

1. Why did Andy Gourley go to his first Schoolies week in 1997?

2. What do you think drinking culture is like among young people? Is it changing?

3. Where do the Red Frogs volunteers come from?

### C. Show video segment 2 (approx. 6 mins including questions)

While the video is playing/after it has finished, ask students to write answers to the following viewing and listening questions:

1. What are some things that motivate Andy to do this work? (List at least two or three things.)

2. To you, what is the most extraordinary thing about the ‘froggies’ and what they do?

### D. What does the Bible say? (7 mins)

Ask students to silently read some or all of the passages in the table below and highlight any particular verses that connect with the work of Andy Gourley and the Red Frogs. (There is a lot of scripture here. Choose which verses you would like to focus on or distribute different passages to different students/groups. Suggested focus if not using all verses: the Matthew and John passages showing Jesus’ teaching about serving others.)

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| **Bible verses** |
| [Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (**Matthew 5:13–6**) |
| It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”Jesus replied, “You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (**John 13:1–17**) |
| Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. (Romans 12:1–16) |
| You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” (Galatians 5:13–14) |
| Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:1–8) |

### E. Brief discussion (2 mins)

As a class, discuss these questions: *How would you expect followers of Jesus to live? Does the work of Andy and the Red Frogs fit with your ideas about followers of Jesus? Why or why not?*

### F. Group poster activity (15 mins)

Divide students into groups of three. Supply each group with a Red Frogs Australia logo (either printed or digitally, depending on how you want them to complete this task – logo is easily found using a Google image search).

Display or hand out the following instructions:

Pretend you are helping to run a campaign in churches or schools to get young people interested in volunteering for Red Frogs. Make a poster to display in churches/schools. Make sure your poster contains:

1. The organisation logo and a brief indication of what the Red Frogs do

2. At least two ideas about serving others taken from the Bible teachings you just read and highlighted

3. A call to action based on these ideas about being a follower of Jesus.

### G. Going deeper: optional extension ideas

Depending on available lesson time, students’ interests and school priorities, teachers may wish to build on this lesson plan and further explore:

* The many ways in which the Red Frogs help others, including their school programs
* Other Christian charities that help others when they are unable to help themselves (there are many to be found by searching the internet – e.g. people experiencing poverty, disability, homelessness)
* (If your school is willing) How to run some fundraising to support Red Frogs (e.g. see [redfrogs.com.au/support/fundraise](https://redfrogs.com.au/support/fundraise); [redfrogs.com.au/support/pancake-drive](https://redfrogs.com.au/support/pancake-drive)) or another Christian service organisation.

### H. Further reading

* More about Andy Gourley: <https://redfrogs.com.au/about/andy>
* ‘Follow the Frog’ video (5 mins) showing Red Frogs in action: <https://redfrogs.com.au/programs/schoolies>
* *Sydney Morning Herald* articles about Red Frogs at Schoolies: <https://www.smh.com.au/education/leap-of-faith-as-red-frog-volunteers-tackle-schoolies-week-20121111-296il.html> and <https://www.smh.com.au/traveller/inspiration/teenage-wasteland-froggers-keep-schoolies-safe-from-moral-swamp-20131129-2yh0s.html>