



HARVEST

ASSEMBLY

Additional Resources

PowerPoint presentation

Video clip found at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGdqKWTSXdU

Gifts for starter activity

Aims

To understand why Salvation Army members believe giving to others is important.

To reflect on how we can all give to others every day.

Introduction

Start by welcoming the pupils to their Harvest assembly and by introducing yourself. Explain that today we will be thinking about giving generously.

Starter

To start with explain that you are going to do an illustration with the help of two volunteers, for this you will need to have two gifts ready, one that is obviously not as good as the other - for example a chocolate bar and a phone (make them aware that unfortunately this won't be something they can keep as you need it!). Ask for two people to come up to volunteer and give both gifts to one of the volunteers and tell them to keep one and give one to the other person. Once they have given one to the other person ask them why they chose to give them the one they did. Was it difficult to decide? Do the same again with two more gifts and two more volunteers.

Now ask everyone else to put their hand up if they would have kept the better gift for themselves.

Ask the volunteers how they felt when they gave a present away. It may be that they felt good or it may be that they were reluctant and wanted it for themselves!

Thank your volunteers and ask them to return to their seats.

Explain that many of us like to give things away to our family and friends when we are able to - it makes us feel good to give things to people we love. Some of you may have even given something away to someone you don't know before because you didn't need it and they did.

We're now going to watch a clip that shows us what Christians are taught about giving to those in need no matter who they are.

Story

This clip is about the story of the Good Samaritan and this is a story Jesus told about helping others (clip can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGdqKWTSXdU).

When the video clip has finished explain to the pupils that in this story it was the most unlikely person who helped the man that was beaten up, he saw someone in need and decided not to walk on by but to do something about it.





HARVEST

A SECONDARY ASSEMBLY

Although at harvest time we are thinking of giving food, this story tells us of someone who did more than give food, he also gave his time and showed love to the man when the people that you would of thought should help didn't. He did something that was inconvenient and probably uncomfortable for him.

Challenge

Christians believe that God wants those who have more than they need to share it with others, that they should show love to others and treat them as they would want to be treated.

Some of the ways The Salvation Army try to put this teaching into practice is by providing accommodation, drop-in centres and training programmes for homeless people, giving support and practical help to people who don't have enough money and food, supporting elderly people who don't have other people around and visiting prisoners and supporting their families. We do all of this because we are committed to loving others and helping people rebuild their lives or simply being there for someone that needs someone to talk to. We want to give generously because we believe that just as God has given to us we should give to others.

Harvest is a time that we give food to others but let's make sure this isn't something we think about doing just once a year let's decide to make giving something we do every day. In your life it's unlikely that today the challenge is for you to help someone who has been beaten up and robbed and needs food and somewhere to stay, like in the story of the good Samaritan but it might be that you could give some time to someone who needs it today - that you could listen to someone who needs a friend or that you could give something small that you don't need to someone who does need it.

Reflection

Let's take a minute to reflect on what we could each of us could do to give to others today. Allow a short time of silence and then finish with the following prayer:

Dear God,

We want to thank you for everything we have been given. We are grateful for the people that give us time and help when we need it. We thank you for the food we have each day and pray that you would show us how to give to others practically but give us courage to do the right thing however inconvenient or uncomfortable it may be. We pray that you would teach us how to be generous givers during this harvest time and always.

Amen.

For help or advice with these resources contact the Schools and Colleges Unit:

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