

Collective Worship for **PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

50
easy-to-use
Bible-based
assembly
outlines for
teaching
essential
life skills



Helen Jaeger



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Suggested ways to use this book

Each assembly outline in this book can be used individually as a stand-alone resource, or, where the school is focusing on a particular theme for longer than just assembly time, it can be combined with other ideas. The assembly themes are presented in alphabetical order, but you will find at the end of this book two appendices that show which assemblies might fit with (1) Christian seasons or (2) events that are significant to the school during the year. Since some themes will recur in the life of a school and will therefore receive ongoing emphasis (for example, kindness, or the Christmas story), more than one outline has been provided for these themes. This allows choice and enables different treatments over a number of years, possibly in conjunction with other resources.

Each assembly outline is divided into seven sections, as listed below. All the outlines follow exactly the same format, for ease of use, but different elements are optional. Your choices will depend on the type of assembly you want to offer, the time and space you have available and the children you are going to be with.

- **Before you start:** This section highlights any resources or materials that you'll need to bring with you or that need to be made or prepared beforehand.
- **Opener:** Each opening activity, game or story script has been designed to link with the theme of the assembly. You'll often need volunteers to take part: try to choose people with a range of ages, talents and abilities, being inclusive and representing all the different classes and Key Stages present.
- **Thought for the day:** Each small 'Thought for the day' ties in with the opening activity, summarises a key idea and leads on to the Bible story, meditation and prayer.
- **What the Bible says:** Key Bible stories or short verses linked to the theme are included in full, with their references. You could print out these passages and ask a child to read them out or you could read them out yourself. Where necessary, feel free to expand on the points in the Bible verse or story, ensuring that the children understand what the passage means as a whole,

as well as any difficult words or unfamiliar concepts. You may like to supplement the Bible stories and verses with art or other visual aids. There are plenty of materials online that you could use, but always make sure that they are copyright-free and available for public use.

- **Questions:** You can use the questions to encourage further interaction or as a basis for your own summary of the biblical information.
- **Reflection:** Having a quiet time of reflection allows the children to assimilate what they've seen and learned, as well as offering them a private space in which to make a response.
- **Prayer:** You can end the assembly with the prayer provided or with one of your own. You may wish to light a candle at this point.

It is a good idea to start and end the assembly with some music playing quietly in the background. This sets the tone and helps the children to recognise the beginning and end of the activities. It also encourages responsive listening and good behaviour from the children as they enter and leave the assembly.

If you are using technological resources such as an overhead projector, internet, visualiser or laptop, check that everything is up and running smoothly before you start.

Have fun and enjoy your assemblies as a time of learning and interaction!

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Being kind to each other

Before you start

Bring to assembly a colourful pinboard, coloured sheets of paper and marker pens.

Opener: Random acts of kindness

Create a 'random acts of kindness' board. Ask the children for suggestions of what could be a random act of kindness—that is, something kind that you do for someone else, just because you want to be kind, and not because they ask for it.

Examples might include:

- letting someone go in front of you in a queue
- giving a friend a random hug, without being asked
- offering to clear someone's lunch tray away
- smiling at everyone

Invite the children to choose just one of the items on their list and to do it today.

Thought for the day

We don't always have to be asked, to be kind. We can be kind to each other just because we want to be. As well as making someone else feel good, it usually makes us feel good, too.

What the Bible says

How to be kind

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

EPHESIANS 4:32

Questions

- What sort of behaviour isn't kind?
- How can we go out of our way to be especially kind to each other?
- Is kindness just about being nice or doing helpful things?

Reflection

Ask the children to close their eyes and think quietly about what they've heard today.

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, that you are so kind. You look after us and care for us. You think kindness is a really good thing. Help us to be kind to each other—to lend a hand, an ear, a smile or a kind word. Amen

Before you start

Prepare a slideshow presentation of some famous inspirational people—for example, Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King, a famous footballer and a famous athlete. Hand out a small slip of paper and pencil to everyone as they come into assembly.

Opener: Drawing on inspiration

Play your slideshow of people who have inspired others throughout history. Ask the children if they know who the people are, why they are famous and why they inspire others. Think about the reasons why people are inspiring. For example, they are honest or courageous or dedicated; they stand up for others, make positive changes happen or make 100 per cent effort.

Ask the children to name one person who inspires them and explain why. They can write the name of the person on their piece of paper, along with one word to say why they are so inspiring.

Now ask the children to turn over their piece of paper and draw a quick picture of themselves. Invite them to write something about themselves that could inspire others—for example, they help others to learn, they are kind, they are fun to be with, they are thoughtful, or they listen and help.

Invite the children to practise their special 'inspirational' qualities throughout the rest of the day.

Thought for the day

Everyone has at least one inspirational quality. It's good to use our special abilities because, that way, we can inspire other people too and encourage them to be and do their best.

What the Bible says

Let your good deeds be seen

'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 5:14–16

Questions

- What did Jesus say about where a lamp or light is put?
- Why is it put in that place?
- What did Jesus mean when he said, 'Let your light shine before others'?
- Why might it be good for other people to see our light?

Reflection

Ask the children to close their eyes and think quietly about what they've heard today.

Prayer

Thank you, Jesus, that there are people in the world who have inspired others, perhaps by something they did or said or the way they lived. Help me to inspire other people too, perhaps by behaving well or doing good work today. Amen

A practical resource for those leading Collective Worship in primary schools

Collective Worship for Primary Schools contains 50 assembly outlines, each based on a key theme and including an interactive opener, a thought for the day, a Bible extract, questions, a reflection time and a prayer.

The material covers Christian festivals, topics and themes, as well as exploring traditional Christian values, such as caring for the poor and speaking out for others, in the context of school issues. Cultural issues and world focus are also included. Appendices provide a suggested calendar of assemblies to use throughout the Christian year and a list of themes linked to international days or other significant events in the school year.

- **Fifty 10- to 15-minute assembly outlines**
- **Clear, easy-to-use structure**
- **Visual, creative and interactive approach**
- **Minimal preparation**

Themes covered:

Anti-bullying ● Asking for forgiveness ● Being courageous ● Being friends ● Being good listeners ● Being inclusive ● Being kind in what we say ● Being kind to each other ● Being ourselves ● Being outdoors ● Being patient ● Being thankful ● Caring for each other ● Celebrating ● Copying good behaviour ● Falling out and making up ● Family ● Follow the star ● Gifts and talents ● Going on holiday ● Good choices ● Growing and learning ● Home ● Keeping going ● Knowing all about you ● Laughing is good for you ● Learning from each other ● Looking forward ● Making mistakes ● Meeting angels ● More than enough ● Mother's Day: mums and carers ● Mother's Day: people who help ● Planting seeds ● Prejudice ● Respecting others ● Rest and relaxation ● Role models ● Saying goodbye ● Setting a good example ● Sharing together ● Sharing worries ● Staying healthy ● Stronger together ● Superheroes ● The importance of books ● The nativity ● Try something new ● Working together ● World feasts

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