



Harvest

Secondary Assembly

Resources

- PowerPoint presentation
- 'The Widow's Offering' video clip (www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJVbN43CBJo) (story starts from 43 seconds)

Aim:

To reflect on what generous giving looks like and how we can give to those in need around us

Introduction

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

Starter

To start with, ask for two volunteers to take part in a quiz. Explain that the quiz will involve you reading out a scenario and the volunteers having to each decide which person in the scenario is the most generous giver.

Read the scenarios as shown on the presentation and ask the volunteers to explain which person they think is giving more and why.

Story

Now ask the pupils the following questions:

What was the point in that quiz? What do you think it tells us about giving?

Explain that giving isn't just about quantity - the amount we give. Giving generously is about deciding that you are going to put the needs of others before your own - for some people this means giving away 50p to a good cause, for others it means giving up an afternoon to help out someone in need when you could be out with your friends.

We live in a society where we can often be told that happiness is about earning lots of money, buying whatever you want when you want, having the best car, the best house, the best looking girlfriend or boyfriend - all of this is about ourselves and living for ourselves. Well, at The Salvation Army we believe something different. We believe that true fulfilment comes when we live in a way that puts others first - when we love others as ourselves.

We're going to watch a video clip now - this is a story from the Bible that helps us better understand what giving generously means. Show video clip.



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This story teaches us that giving generously isn't about how much you give, but it's about giving in a way that isn't focused on us. The rich people in this story were not giving generously - they were giving so that everyone could see what they were doing, so that they were known for giving and they could get on with the rest of their week feeling that they'd done their bit. True giving is focused on those you are giving to with no thought for yourself.

Challenge

Explain that as a Christian church, The Salvation Army believes in giving to those in need generously just like in the story we just heard. This is why The Salvation Army fights against hunger poverty in the UK. Go over the slides about hunger poverty and how The Salvation Army tries to help people in the UK who don't have enough food. You may want to explain at this point what happens locally through your corps too.

Explain that it may be that the way you want to give generously this Harvest is to give food to a local cause for those who need it. But living generously isn't just about giving food at Harvest. Living generously should be something we do all year around - and it's not just about giving money, food or clothes. Living generously might mean that instead of watching Hollyoaks you help your mum with the washing up or your little sister with her homework; it might mean that you spend ten minutes at lunch chatting to someone who has no one to talk to and is going through a hard time rather than spending time doing something fun with your friends. It's about giving up some things that are focused on you in order to show love to others.

Reflection

So we're going to take a couple of minutes to reflect on what we can all do to live generously this week. What can you give up that's about you, and instead be focused on others and show someone that you care? Let's take this time of quiet to think of one thing each that we can all do.

After a few minutes' quiet you can read this prayer if appropriate to the school.

Dear Lord,

Thank you that you love everyone and that your desire is for no one to go hungry, no one to be lonely, and no one to be in pain. Show us how we can play a part in making this more of a reality for people this week. Teach us to live generously with our money, with our time and with the way we act towards others. We say sorry for the times we've been completely focused on ourselves and haven't been concerned with the hunger and pain of others. We thank you for all that we have. Teach us every day to be extravagantly generous, just like the widow in the story who gave her all.

In Jesus' name,

Amen