

Harvest

Secondary Assembly

Resources

PowerPoint presentation

Feeding of 5,000 video clip - www.youtube.com/watch?v=nL9ZnRfFLuk

Aims

To reflect on how the little we share with others can have a big impact.

Starter

Introduce yourself to the class and welcome them to their Harvest assembly. Explain that today we are thinking about small things transforming into something big.

To start with, show the examples on the presentation of small ideas or actions that have transformed into something big. At the end explain that it's clear that small actions can have a huge impact. Big things often start with one person deciding to do something.

Story

Today we are going to reflect on a story in the Bible where something small became something much bigger.

First of all ask for five volunteers. Ask one of the volunteers to stand to one side and give them a big bar of chocolate. Ask them if they'd be willing to share what they had equally among the five of them. It may be that they are willing as there's enough for them to share. Now ask them what about sharing it with everyone in the room - the answer might be that there's simply not enough!

This is the kind of situation Jesus' disciples were in, in the story we are going to hear. But their problem was bigger than us not having enough chocolate; they had 5,000 hungry people to feed. Let's see what happened...

Show the video clip now that tells the story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people.

This is a story of a small amount of food somehow feeding a huge crowd through Jesus. But Jesus didn't just create some food from nothing; it took a young boy to offer the little that he had, and this was used in this miracle to do more that anyone could have thought was possible!

In The Salvation Army we have members and volunteers who give small things to those in need every day, whether that's something to eat or drink to someone who is living in poverty, a few minutes of their time to chat to an elderly person who is on their own, or one evening a week to help build relationships with young people at a kids' or youth group. All of these things can have a huge impact on the individuals they help, particularly if they've not received help or love in a long time.





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The artist Vincent Van Gough said: 'Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.' This is what happens through the work of The Salvation Army - lots of volunteers and members doing small things, that they believe God uses to do great things. Lots of us do small acts of sharing, giving and caring that can transform whole communities

The little things we do may seem insignificant and small to us. I'm sure there were a few people that laughed at the boy's offering in the story and thought it was so small that there was no point in sharing it. But this small offering was used for something much greater.

Reflection

The challenge for us all is to believe that the little we have is worth offering to others - one tin of food in a foodbank basket makes a difference to someone, one conversation with someone who is lonely can make their day. Sharing the things we have can have a huge impact not just on others but also on ourselves: it can teach us to value people, friendship and community more than the things we own. If we all do small things to look after those around us who are in need, together we can achieve something great in our community.

Let's take a few moments of quiet to think about what small things we could do to make a big difference to someone else. This could be sharing something you have or giving your time to someone - it doesn't matter how small, but doing the smallest thing can have a big impact as we've heard today.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for all that we have. We pray that you would show us how to be generous givers, no matter how small we think what we have is. Help us to know that you can do something great with the small things we have to offer. We pray that you would provide for those in our community that are in need and guide us in how we show your love to others this week.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

For more information on this or any of our other resources please contact us at schools@salvationarmy.org.uk or call us on 020 7367 4706

