



Remembrance Day

Secondary Assembly

Additional Resources:

PowerPoint presentation

Aim:

To reflect on the meaning of Remembrance Day and to understand how The Salvation Army has supported those affected by conflict.

Introduction

Welcome the pupils to their Remembrance Day assembly and introduce yourself.

Activity

Tell the pupils that you are going to give them a choice between remembering two things. You will give them a few seconds to make a decision, and then you want them to put their hand up for the one they think is more important as you read them a second time.

- Remembering what you had for breakfast, or remembering a family member's birthday?
- Remembering what socks you wore yesterday, or remembering your maths homework?
- Remembering to give back your friend's favourite DVD that you borrowed, or remembering what you wore yesterday?

Although there might be a difference of opinion it's clear that some things are more important to remember than others. We'd get upset if a good friend forgot our birthday or didn't look after something that meant a lot to us, because it sends us the message that we don't matter to them.

This is why we have Remembrance Day - to remember something that mattered, so we make sure we don't forget the people who lost their lives in wars. Remembrance Day is always held on the Sunday nearest to 11 November which is the anniversary of the end of the First World War.

The First World War lasted for five years, from 1914 to 1918, and millions of young men lost their lives in the conflict. The loss of so many men left families devastated and a whole generation had to try to rebuild their lives after the death and destruction the war had caused. Since the end of the First World War we make sure that the people who gave their lives, both in this conflict and in others, are never forgotten, by taking time on this day to remember them.

Story

Even though The Salvation Army is a Christian church and charity and therefore promotes peace, they have supported and continue to support those affected by wars. Some of the ways The Salvation Army has done this are:



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- Operating ambulances and canteens, handing out food and helping injured people during the First World War
- The Salvation Army in America sent women over to France to help the American soldiers. They became known as the 'doughnut girls' as they made doughnuts for the soldiers to remind them of home.
- During the Second World War, The Salvation Army was hard at work in the United Kingdom as well. They assisted the needy by helping families whose houses had been bombed, passing out refreshments in underground shelters and holding worship services in caves where people were sheltering.

Challenge

We do all this because Jesus taught us to love others. He said that he came to give life and to overcome suffering and destruction:

'The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full' (John 10:10 NIV).

Because of this The Salvation Army tries its hardest to overcome suffering - not just in war zones but also in other areas of society: here in the UK, for example, supporting homeless people, people in prison, people suffering with addictions, people that have lost touch with their families. All of these people are in the middle of suffering of a different kind and need to experience life and peace. The Salvation Army does its best to help them rebuild their lives through various programmes and pastoral work.

Reflection

I don't think any of you will be going to help in any war zones this week, but it may be that you can help people who are suffering in another way, just as The Salvation Army tries to. It might be that you can give a listening ear to someone who is going through a hard time, you could take time to have lunch with someone who is on their own, you could decide to be a peacemaker between two friends who have fallen out. As we take a moment to remember those who lost their lives in wars, let also take a moment to reflect on what we can do as individuals and together to bring peace to the situations and the people surrounding us.

Prayer (Optional)

Dear God,
Help us to remember those who have lost their lives in conflict. As we remember them, help us to try and bring peace in our schools, families and communities. We pray for those in war zones at the moment and those who are recovering from the impact of conflict. We pray that you will help them rebuild their lives.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

