

Harvest

Primary Assembly



What's inside?

Includes an optional food donations section. In advance ask the school the best way to collect donations, eg pupils donating for each class, or by collecting and displaying in advance.

Illustrations generated with the help of AI.

Aims

- To recognise that people are more than what they look like on the outside
- To learn that Christians believe that God cares about us
- To think of simple ways we can notice, include and support others

Bible verse

‘God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.’
(1 Samuel 16:7 ICB)

Resources

- *What's inside?* PowerPoint presentation

You will need:

- Several bags, each with an item of food in them, eg carrot, apple, potato, a slice of bread, pasta - and in the last bag, a tin with the label removed
- A personal story about the impact a food donation has had or how food donations and support are being given (optional)
- Any photos from your corps that link to the above for slides 6 & 7 (optional)
- Music to play during any donation time (optional)

STARTER

Slide 1 Welcome

Welcome pupils to the assembly and introduce yourself.

Slide 2 Guesses

I've brought some food with me today and I would like some volunteers to help guess what they could be. I would like [same number as the bags] pupils to describe what is inside a bag.



Arrange the volunteers at the front. Ask the first volunteer to describe what they feel inside the bag, then take a few guesses from the assembly on what it could be. The volunteer then reveals what the food item is.

Oh well guessed, everyone! It's a [food item]! Repeat some of the relevant descriptive phrases. Now that we can see what it is - what food/meal could we make with this? Take a few responses, then repeat with the next volunteer and bag. Continue till the last item, the tin being guessed.

Oh, no - this tin has lost its label! So what could be inside the tin? What food/meal could it help make? Take a few responses. It's a bit tricky to guess, as the tin could contain your favourite food - or your least favourite. Thank the volunteers for their help.

MAIN TALK

Slide 3 Judging

What is this tin filled with? Will it help make a pasta or a curry dish? Will it make a sweet pudding? Or will I end up with peaches and mash?

It's hard, probably impossible, to guess from this tin just by looking at it. There's a lot of things we judge by what we can see: food, games, books, presents, clothes.

- But a messy-looking cake can still taste amazing!
- An old, battered book could tell an exciting story.
- A game in a boring looking box might give you hours of fun.
- The smallest gift might be just the best present ever!
- And the weird-looking top or the cheapest trainers might be the comfiest for sport or play.

We can't tell just by looking at things. And yet we do judge by appearances a lot in our lives. Sometimes this is a useful skill; we know many things just by looking at them if they are dangerous or unsafe. Our sight will help us know what we can touch or eat or play with, without putting us in harm's way.

But sometimes we judge people just by sight. We decide that a child might not make a good friend, or someone is unkind or mean - without ever really knowing them first. We've judged them without taking a moment to know what is inside.

We also make judgements about people we know and love. We often decide our friends or family are OK because they look it. But friends or family can be having a bad day or be in pain and don't always show it on the outside. We can't always tell just by looking.



CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Slide 4 Bible verse

The mystery tin reminds us that we can't always tell what is inside. Christians believe God sees more than the outside - God sees what kind of person we really are and what we really need - God sees into our hearts.

In the Bible, the holy book for Christians, there is a verse that reminds us that what is inside is often more important than what we can see on the outside.

'God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart.'
(1 Samuel 16:7 *ICB*)

We can't always tell just by looking. We can't always tell if someone is funny or kind-hearted. We can't always tell if someone is lonely, in pain or needs help.

SALVATION ARMY PERSPECTIVE

Slide 5 Respect

The Salvation Army, as a Christian church and charity, knows it is important not to judge someone from what they look like on the outside.

The Salvation Army knows that you can't tell just from looking at someone whether they:

- need a safe place to live
- are worried about money
- need help finding work
- don't know where to turn for support, or
- are struggling to buy food for themselves or their family.

It's one of the reasons it's important to treat everyone with respect, as we don't know what people are dealing with inside, and we don't know what help they might need.

Slide 6 Our local corps

(Personalise slide 6 or use slide 5)

At The Salvation Army near to this school where I [am a member/leader ...] we make sure that everyone is treated with respect and feels included.

Whether they come to our [activities/clubs, drop-in centre, Sunday worship] or any other group that we have, we make sure that we treat everyone with respect. By taking the time to listen and welcome and care for people, it can help reveal the





good, surprising and special things about them. It helps us to see what God sees, on the inside.

FOOD DONATIONS (Optional)

Slide 7 Food donations

You may wish to share an example of the impact a food donation has had, or how food donations and support are being given and any photos (optional).

Receive or highlight the food donation on display and thank the pupils and staff for their willingness to help. Highlight that they have given to people in need, people that they may never meet; and without seeing them, they have chosen to show kindness and generosity. You may wish to say a short prayer of thanks - if the school policies permit it.

CHALLENGE AND REFLECTION

Slide 8 Reflection

We didn't find out what was inside the mystery tin today. And we can't always tell what is inside a person either. We can't always see if someone is worried or sad or lonely. And we can't always tell if someone is funny, kind, creative or a brilliant friend just by looking. But we try to find out in other ways.

We can:

- talk to someone we don't usually play with
- include someone who seems left out
- ask if someone might need help
- show kindness

Let's spend a few moments reflecting on ways we can look beyond the outside and think of ways we can notice, include and care for other people this week.

Pause for a short reflection time.

PLENARY

Slide 9 Goodbye

So today we have learned that looks do not tell the whole story, that Christians believe God cares about what is inside us, and that we can choose to notice and care for other people too.

And as for this tin and what's inside? Well ... it's ... Nope, not going to tell you! You'll have to wait till we next meet to find out!

Thank the pupils and staff for letting you be a part of their assembly.