

Education Week Sunday July 26 – Sunday Aug 2, 2015

Service/Assembly

The following is an introduction and suggestions for organisers of the 2015 Education Week Service/Assembly.

We have included Saturday and both Sundays that week so that churches may consider doing their own assembly/service as part of the Sunday service.

These are only recommendations for you and it is important that you keep your own school/setting in mind as you organise and prepare.

Although this particular outline has been developed by members of ICCOREIS and therefore has a Christian focus, we do recognise that SRE is a multi-faith activity in schools and if this assembly is run as a whole school event you will need to discuss with the other SRE teachers (of different faiths) and adapt some aspects of the service to be inclusive of all the faiths represented at your school.

It is not necessary to print out the handout for everyone.

Suggestions

If possible have children lead. Discussions with the school SRE coordinator might help in identifying students who could do this.

There is opportunity to include quite a number of students: prayers, Bible readings, doing an item. Having an item that highlights kids' abilities would be great if you can find one to match the theme of 'celebrating local heroes'.

If you have students doing an item we've added a song after the talk to give your item people time to get in place or it may just flow better to do it straight away.

*The words in **blue** are the same as written in the handout.*

WELCOME

This has not been scripted as it is a local decision. It may be done best by the SRE Coordinator or one of the other SRE teachers. Depending on where this is fitting into the school's overall plan for Education Week you could have a number of visitors present. It would be an appropriate time to invite some local heroes (in uniform if appropriate) so they can be acknowledged. Be aware and inclusive of who is present e.g. parents, staff of the school, Principal, P&C, students, clergy, leader/members of other faith groups, local members.

SONG

Choose a song that is well known to the children from your curriculum and/or has movement & actions. Have a confident leader give non-verbal direction to the children. (Keep in mind – if this is a multi faith assembly, then consideration of the words you sing is very important). See Appendix 1 for song suggestions.

INTRODUCTION

This could be done by a student. It is a summary of what is written on the back of the handout.

This week we are celebrating everything that is good in our Public Schools and the

opportunities our schools provide for us to expand our God given abilities as we learn and grow.

At school everyone is encouraged to strive for their best, to accept challenges, reach new levels of achievement, and develop skills that will encourage creativity as we work towards contributing to the future.

Let us join together to hear more about how we can make a difference and celebrate God's plan for us.

PRAYER

There are many "heroes" that are common among schools, a number are listed here but your school may not have them all, so adapt to suit. Your school may have a chaplain and as a contributor to school life they may be included here.

** (Include those listed below - or others - who are part of your school community)*

Father God,

We thank you for today and that you are here with us. We thank you for the country we live in, the school we attend, our teachers, parents, and those who contribute to our community. We thank you for our local heroes: *our police officers, firefighters, doctors and nurses, our military personnel, and those who work hard to make our community and world a better place. We thank you for their example, and we ask that you would help us and show us how we too, can make a significant contribution to the world that we live in. We ask that you would help us today to be ready to hear your Word and that we would learn something new about you. We pray this in your name. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

Use puzzles, rap, music, drama, drawings, missing words, etc.

Proverbs 3:27 (The Message)

*"Never walk away from someone who deserves help;
your hand is God's hand for that person."*

This is an opportunity to be creative in how this verse is delivered. It is important to think about the different learning styles each student will have, and to incorporate a broad range of these styles in the presentation. For example: puzzle, music, pictures, word plays etc.

ACTIVITY: GUESS THE HERO *(engaging children in the message)*

This is an option depending on the length of the assembly.

Equipment Needed:

- *A large picture of a well-known superhero, cut up*
- *A board to stick pictures on*
- *Blue-tac*

Technique:

Stick one piece of the picture of the well-known superhero onto the board and ask the students to identify the superhero. If they are unable, place another piece on. Continue this until they have correctly identified the superhero.

Options:

You may ask a student to assist with sticking the pictures up on the board.

You can make it into a competition between the boys and girls, to see who can correctly identify the image first.

Instead of using pictures, you could get someone to dress up as the hero and ask the children to guess who they think it might be.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Have someone read the introduction.

Jesus wanted his followers to be kind to each other and help one another. This is a story of one of his followers whose name was Tabitha.

There are a number of ways to do this. Here are some suggestions (please let us know if you have others).

- 1. Have someone (or more) read the whole passage with expression and enthusiasm.*
- 2. Act it out*

Acts 9:36-43 (CEV)

36 In Joppa there was a follower named Tabitha. Her Greek name was Dorcas, which means “deer.” She was always doing good things for people and had given much to the poor. 37 But she got sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Joppa wasn’t far from Lydda, and the followers heard that Peter was there. They sent two men to say to him, “Please come with us as quickly as you can!” 39 Right away, Peter went with them.

The men took Peter upstairs into the room. Many widows were there crying. They showed him the coats and clothes that Dorcas had made while she was still alive.

40 After Peter had sent everyone out of the room, he knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to the body of Dorcas and said, “Tabitha, get up!” The woman opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet.

Peter called in the widows and the other followers and showed them that Dorcas had been raised from death. 42 Everyone in Joppa heard what had happened, and many of them put their faith in the Lord.

MESSAGE/TALK

It is intended that the talk be based on the New Testament reading though it is not necessary (nor recommended) to repeat the whole story again if it has been read or acted out.

Some **key points** (choose one or two to emphasise – not all) to highlight would be:

Points from the Bible Passage:

- 1. Tabitha was an ordinary lady, but her life impacted many people*
- 2. She cared for those around her*
- 3. She was their hero, through the way she made clothes for them and helped them*
- 4. Sometimes we don’t see our heroes until after they are gone. We miss the chances we’re given to say thank you!*
- 5. How amazing and kind was God to bring her back to life, so she could continue to care for, and help others.*

Questions to pose to children:

Do you think everyone took time to say ‘thank you’ to Tabitha after she came back to life? Who are our heroes?

(Accept responses. Suggestions to give children: teachers, parents, coaches, etc.)

How can I say thank-you to the heroes in my life?

(Accept responses. Suggestions to give children: say thank-you, write a card, give a gift, and be encouraging, etc.)

How can I be a hero to someone else?

- Being a friend to others
- Being kind
- Encouraging one another
- Cheering other people on
- Supporting other people
- Do a kind activity:
 - Say some kind words
 - Remember to say thank you and please

(This list can be expanded upon. Be as creative as you want with presenting the message, try to incorporate different learning styles to reach as many students as possible.)

Focus on the positive. Encourage the children (and adults) to think about the behaviours that make someone a hero.

Is important that the speaker have a feel for how this works for the local situation. The organiser will need to give them input if they are not familiar with the local setting then follow that lead.

Use an example of people who use their abilities to help others and share about their faith in God. Do you know a local person whom you could refer to? Ask the school or local council about the people that local streets or parks may be named after. Are there any statues of local heroes nearby? You could use some photos of streets, buildings, war memorials, statues that children would recognise that display the names of some of these people.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

In the Old Testament of the Bible we learn about how strong God is. God will help us everyday to serve Him and others to keep doing good, even when they get really tired.

Reading from Isaiah 40: 28-31 (CEV)

Don't you know? Haven't you heard?
The Lord is the eternal God, Creator of the earth.
He never gets weary or tired;
his wisdom cannot be measured.

The Lord gives strength to those who are weary.
Even young people get tired, then stumble and fall.
But those who trust the Lord will find new strength.
They will be strong like eagles soaring upward on wings;
they will walk and run without getting tired.

SONG/S – see Appendix for more information on each song

Song Suggestions:

My God is so Big – Remember The Lord - Colin Buchanan

Practice Being Godly – Practice Being Godly - Colin Buchanan

Greater is He - Kids on the Move

Be Strong - Living it to the Max - Logosdor

Live Humbly Trusting God - unknown artist

Wanna be Great? Serve - Living it to the Max - Roy Meredith, Rob Weule/Logosdor

Stand Up and Stand Out - The Shed – Kevin Fitzgerald and Peter Barnett

God's Backyard Bible Camp - Yancy

Or choose a song from your curriculum

STUDENT ITEM/ PARTICIPATION

Have a student or SRE teacher introduce the group – giving an explanation of who is doing it and the purpose

PRAYERS *These are only suggested prayers and may be adjusted to suit your local situation including contributions from other faith groups.*

STUDENT 1

(An opportunity for prayers led by students. It would be ideal if these could be in their own words or use the ones in the service sheet.)

Loving God,

We thank you for the gift you gave us of Jesus. Thank you for your love and care for each of us. Thank you for the unique gifts and abilities you give each one of us. Thank you for the opportunities our school and our parents give us to learn and explore and discover our gifts and abilities. Help us to use our skills and the gifts you have given us to bless and help others in our school and to contribute to our community. Amen

STUDENT 2

Mighty God,

Help us to follow in the footsteps of Tabitha and other followers of Jesus who made a difference in the lives of the other people they lived with. Help us to help others who cannot do some of the things that we can. Amen

Student 3

Heavenly Father,

We pray for all students in our school and all the schools in NSW as they celebrate Education Week. May we all respect and celebrate each other and encourage each other to achieve the best we can. We are grateful for all the heroes in our lives and for the way they have helped us. Help us to care for others. Amen

CLOSING

So as we leave today, help us to remember a very special message from the Bible.

“Never walk away from someone who deserves help; your hand is God’s hand for that person.”

Proverbs 3:27 (The Message)

Take time today to say ‘thank you’ to someone who makes a difference in your life.

Take time to do something kind for someone else.

Pray to conclude.

This statement on the back page of the handout is not to be read aloud– but is intended for additional reading for folk to reflect on.

This week we are celebrating everything that is good in our Public Schools and the

opportunities our schools provide for us to expand our God given abilities as we learn and grow.

On May 7, 2014, the Commonwealth Solicitor General reinforced the 2008 Melbourne Declaration of Education Goals which states that students are to be developed socially, emotionally, morally and spiritually - as well as intellectually and physically.

Special Religious Education (SRE/Scripture) is a great contributor to all of these goals.

The theme for Education Week 2015 is *Celebrating Local Heroes*. That future has begun as we develop understanding and skills and use our abilities to make positive changes, which will benefit ourselves and those around us.

At school everyone is encouraged to strive for their best, to accept challenges, reach new levels of achievement, and develop skills that will encourage creativity as we work towards contributing to the future of us all.

APPENDIX

Songs for Education Week

1. *My God is so Big* – Remember The Lord - Colin Buchanan
My God is so big so strong and so mighty there's nothing my God cannot do.
2. *Practice Being Godly* – Practise Being Godly - Colin Buchanan
3. *Greater is He* - Kids on the Move
4. *Be Strong*- Living it to the Max - Logosdor
Theme: Joshua 1:9 be brave, not afraid because God is with you.
Words: I am the Lord and I have commanded you to be strong and brave. Don't ever be afraid or discouraged. I am the Lord your God and I will be there to help you wherever you may go.
Features: leaves words out – you could have a child hold up a sign with the missing word
5. *Live Humbly Trusting God* - unknown artist
Theme: Micah 6:8
Words: do what is right to other people and trust in God, be kind to all mankind
Features: you will need to explain the word "humbly"
6. *Wanna be Great? Serve*- Living it to the Max - Roy Meredith, Rob Weule/Logosdor
Theme: if you want to be great then serve others
Words: Wanna be great? Then serve, then care, then help)
7. *Stand Up and Stand Out* - The Shed – Kevin Fitzgerald and Peter Barnett
Theme: to stand out then you must stand up and do something
Words: jump, stomp, shout "I am ready to stand up and stand out". Help at home and trust God.
Features: actions of the song could become very loud
8. *God's Backyard Bible Camp* - Yancy
This album has a number of songs about serving others that you may find useful. It is available on itunes. The songs may be more suitable for church settings.