



INTER-CHURCH COMMISSION
ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
IN SCHOOLS (NSW) Inc

Order of Service 2016

**Shared stories, better learning,
stronger communities**

This week we are thinking about how we can share stories in our Public Schools and listen to others telling their stories. Good listeners learn to treat each other with respect and learn from each other.

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 2016 is '*Shared stories, better learning, stronger communities*'. We remember that Jesus shared his wisdom through many stories and taught others about God's love.

At school everyone is encouraged to treat other peoples' stories with respect, to learn from them, so that our school, families and community will become a better place for us all to live.



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Education Week

August 1-5
2016

An inter-denominational
Christian service for optional use
by schools and churches prepared
by ICCOREIS

Program

1. WELCOME

We would like to welcome everyone here today, our students, teachers, parents and special guests.

2. SONG

3. INTRODUCTION

The theme for Education Week is 'Shared stories, better learning, stronger communities'.
For thousands of years the stories of the Bible have been teaching us and strengthening communities all over the world as we learn from them principles of life and character values that promote courage, resilience, wisdom, morality, and love. As we continue to understand and listen to each other, we learn to appreciate our differences and those things we have in common. We can be inspired by the courageous choices and resilience we see in those who overcome great obstacles. We can learn new ideas and, just as in the Bible days, learn to love each other and treat each other as we would like to be treated. This will make not only our school, but our lives and community stronger and richer.

4. PRAYER

Creator/Loving/Almighty 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, carers and those who contribute to our community. We thank you for each person and the wonderful way you have made them. We ask that you would give us wisdom to listen to others and learn from them. Help us to understand each other as we hear each other's stories and help us to grow stronger together as we learn to

appreciate our strengths and weaknesses; our triumphs and tragedies and the things we have in common and the things that make us each unique. 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.

5. MEMORY VERSE

Proverbs 1:5 (Amplified Bible)
The wise will hear and increase their learning,
And the person of understanding will acquire wise counsel and the skill to steer their course wisely and lead others to the truth

6. NEW TESTAMENT READING

Jesus spent time visiting his friends and taking others with him, often telling them stories.

Luke 10:38-42 (NLT)

³⁸ As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.
³⁹ Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."
⁴¹ But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! ⁴² There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

7. MESSAGE/TALK

8. OLD TESTAMENT READING

In the Old Testament of the Bible we learn about how important it is to listen well and try to learn from others.

Reading from Proverbs 2: 1-12 (ERV)

2 My child, pay attention to what I say. Remember my commands. ² Listen to wisdom, and do your best to understand. ³ Ask for good judgment. Cry out for understanding. ⁴ Look for wisdom like silver. Search for it like hidden treasure. ⁵ If you do this, you will understand what it means to respect the LORD, and you will come to know God.

⁶ The LORD is the source of wisdom; knowledge and understanding come from his mouth. ⁷ He gives good advice to honest people and shields those who do what is right. ⁸ He makes sure that people are treated fairly. He watches over his loyal followers.

⁹ If you listen to him, you will understand what is just and fair and how to do what is right. ¹⁰ You will gain wisdom, and knowledge will bring you joy.

¹¹ Planning ahead will protect you, and understanding will guard you. ¹² These will keep you from following the wrong path and will protect you from those who have evil plans.

9. SONG/S

10. STUDENT ITEM/ PARTICIPATION

11. PRAYERS STUDENT 1

Loving God,
We thank you for your son, Jesus. And for the stories he told other people. He used these stories to explain how much you love us and how you want us to live.

Thank you for our own lives and the true stories we have to tell others. 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. Amen

STUDENT 2

Mighty God,
Help us to follow in the footsteps of Mary and other followers of Jesus who knew how important it was to listen and learn from others. Help us to be good listeners at school and with our friends. 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 the wise people in our schools and families. Help us to be good members of our community. Amen

11. CLOSING

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

Jesus used stories when He spoke to the people. In fact, He did not tell them anything without using stories.

Matthew 13:34 (NIRV)