**Education Week**

**Sunday July 31 – Sunday Aug 7, 2016**

**Service/Assembly**

*The following is an introduction and suggestions for organisers of the 2016 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 story tellers, 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 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.

**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 help us 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.

**MEMORY VERSE**

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

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.

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: Can you put this together?** *(engaging children in the message)*

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

*Equipment Needed:*

* *One or two identical small models or puzzles*
* *Instructions or picture*

*Aim: For children to understand how when we stop and listen, we can succeed*

*Options:*

*Ask for two volunteers.*

*Give the first person the model or puzzle with no instructions or pictures and ask them to complete it.*

*Give the second person the model or puzzle with instructions and help.*

*Observe if the first student stops and listens or asks the other student to help them.*

*Commend them if they work together*

***OR***

*Ask one student to volunteer. First let them try without instructions or pictures. See if they ask for help. Then give them instructions or pictures and assistance. (optional - ask another student to help too)*

*Ask the children: What happened when the student/s were give or asked for help and listened to the instructions they were given? What happened when students worked together?*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Have someone read the introduction.*

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

*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*

Luke 10:38-42 (NLT)

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38As 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. 39Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught. 40But 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.”

41But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! 42There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

**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.*

Aim: Children will understand that Jesus valued sharing stories and the time taken by those who listen and learn.

***Points from the Bible Passage:***

1. *Just like Martha, we can become so busy with things we want to do, or think we need to do, that we miss the chance to sit and listen and learn from others, especially Jesus.*
2. *While doing our chores and enjoying our fun activities are important, Jesus shows us how important listening and learning are*
3. *Taking time to learn from Jesus is one of the greatest things we can do because we can learn about how to live life and treat others. We can learn how much God loves us.*

Ask the children:

* Do they know any stories that Jesus told?
* Why did Jesus tell stories?
* What did he want us to learn?
* What kinds of things might you learn from the story of the Good Samaritan?/ Lost Sheep?/ Prodigal Son?
* Who might you be able to listen to and learn from apart from Jesus, in your family or community?
* What is one great thing you have learn from your Mum or Dad, Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle?
* What is one new thing you have learnt at school this week?
* What is one new/ great thing you have learnt from a friend (who wasn’t born in Australia)?

Say: Did you know that Jesus really loved listening and learning?

 (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**.

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 help others by sharing about their faith in God, such as SRE teachers. Do you know a local person whom you could refer to?

**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)*

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

*6The Lord is the source of wisdom; knowledge and understanding come from his mouth. 7He gives good advice to honest people and shields those who do what is right. 8He 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. 10You will gain wisdom, and knowledge will bring you joy.*

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

**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 songfrom 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 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

**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)

*Pray to conclude.*

Our heavenly Father, thank you for those you give us to listen to and learn from. Help us to use what we learn to make our lives, school, families and community stronger. Thank you that we can always listen to you. Amen.

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 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 communites’. 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.

**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 are more suitable for church settings.