

Introducing the Love Life Live Lent collective worship material

Welcome to the *Love Life Live Lent* collective worship material for primary and secondary schools.

Material for five acts of collective worship is provided as follows:

Week 1

LLLL theme: Home and Family

Collective worship theme: Choosing to show you care for people in your family by doing what you say you will

Week 2

LLLL theme: Neighbourhood

Collective worship theme: Thinking about how to care for your neighbourhood

Week 3

LLLL theme: Community

Collective worship theme: Caring for those who are left out or hidden in our city, town or village

Week 4

LLLL theme: School

Collective worship theme: Choosing to allow the 'seeds' of God's word to change the way we behave in our school

Week 5

LLLL theme: Global

Collective worship theme: Being aware that our global responsibility to all peoples and to our planet is more important than the things we have

Please note that while week 2 includes concern for the local environment, we have not provided material which covers wider environmental concern. For resources in this area, we suggest you go to www.ecocongregation.org, click on 'Free resources' and go to Module 04 'Working with children' for resources for schools.

Using the collective worship material

Different ideas are provided within each week's session for primary and secondary schools.

The 'Prayer activity' in each session is suitable for both primary and secondary schools and is complemented by PowerPoint slides available separately in the PowerPoint presentation.

Week 1

Love Life Live Lent theme: Home and Family

Collective worship theme: Choosing to show you care for people in your family by doing what you say you will.

Aim: To help children to realize that it's important to show they care for others through their actions. Jesus is more interested in what they do rather than in what they just say, but don't mean. Changing your mind to do something good is not a sign of weakness but a positive choice and a sign of strength.

You will need:

Primary school:

- a broom
- toy cars and garage
- two pairs of wellies
- a mock 'TV'
- 3 children to play the parts of two brothers and a Dad.

Secondary school:

- Football kit
- 2 students to rehearse and then act out a short drama

Primary school script

Assembly leader:

Do you ever say you will do things and then don't do them?

I need someone to help me tell you a story about a boy who said he would help his Dad. (*Choose a volunteer from Year 6*). You are Joe, the oldest in the family and mad on football. Now I need someone to be your little brother. (*Choose volunteer from Year 3*). You are Sam and you love cars. Finally, I need a Dad. (*Choose volunteer - child or teacher*). Listen to the story and see if you can tell me at the end if Joe actually does what he promises.

The assembly leader narrates the story while the children mime the parts of the other characters.

Sam and Joe are brothers. Dad asks Sam, the elder brother, to help him sweep up the leaves from the drive, but Sam says he is too busy playing with his cars and garage. After his Dad has gone, Sam realizes that he can play with them anytime, so he puts on his wellies and goes outside to help.

Meanwhile Dad has gone to find Joe, who's watching football on TV, to ask him to help. Joe says that he will and he'll go and put his wellies on. Sam is sweeping up the leaves when his Dad arrives and soon the two of them have finished. Joe is still watching TV.

Joe said he would help sweep up the leaves but didn't.

Repeat initial question, 'Do you ever say you will do things and then don't do them?' (Some of the children may like to tell their own anecdotes.)

I wonder how your friends and family feel when you don't do as you say you will?

Jesus told a story about this. It's called the parable of the two sons and we can read it in Matthew's gospel, chapter 21 verses 28-32. (The assembly leader reads the story from an age-appropriate Bible or one of the following 're-tellings' suggested here: 'The Two Sons' by Mick Inkpen & Nick Butterworth (Candle Books, 2005, ISBN 088070148X), the rap 'Actions Speak Louder Than Words' (from *Rap, Rhyme & Reason* by Anita Haigh, Scripture Union, 1998, ISBN 1859990363), 'The Son & the Daughter' in *Stories for Interactive Assemblies* by Nigel Bishop (Barnabas, 2006, ISBN 1841014654).

A parable is a story that illustrates a point. Jesus explained that the parable of the two sons meant God was much more interested in what people *do* rather than in what they *say*, but don't mean. The parable could be summed up in the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words.' Changing your mind to do something good is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength. What do your actions say about you?

Continue with the Prayer activity below.

Secondary school script

For older children the following version of the story might be more appropriate. It can still be mimed to a narration but it might be possible to arrange in advance for some gifted drama students to practise their own version rather than attempting an improvisation as suggested for the primary school situation.

Assembly leader:

Do you ever say you will do things and then don't do them?

The assembly leader hands over to the students who have prepared a short sketch based on the following scenario:

Mike had had a great game. Three-two in a tough cup clash with the only team that could rival his for the top spot and league promotion. And the best part was the fact that the deciding goal had been scored in the last five minutes by none other than himself. He slung his kit bag, boots and all, at the foot of the stairs and went to look in the fridge.

His Mum came in. They chatted over the day and the game. 'Don't forget to put your kit away, love,' she said. 'Sure,' Mike replied as he headed off to his room. He walked straight past the pile, intent on checking the Internet for his science course work due in the next day.

After tea his Mum mentioned the football kit again. 'Did you forget to put your stuff away?' 'Oh yeah. I'll do it now, Mum,' he replied as his fingers felt for his mobile phone and that text he needed to send.

Next morning, the kit bag still sat there ...

Mike said he would put his kit away but didn't.

Repeat initial question 'Do you ever say you will do things and then don't do them?

I wonder how your friends and family feel when you don't do as you say you will?'

Jesus told a story about this. It's called the parable of the two sons and we can read it in Matthew's gospel, chapter 21 verses 28-32. (*The assembly leader reads the story from an age appropriate Bible.*) A parable is a story that illustrates a point. Jesus explained that the parable of the two sons meant God was much more interested in what people *do* rather than in what they *say*, but don't mean. The parable could be summed up in the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words.' Changing your mind to do something good is not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength. What do your actions say about you?

*Continue with the **Prayer activity** below.*

Prayer activity for all

Show the PowerPoint slides of different homes and family members. (Each slide fades into the next creating a kaleidoscope of images of home and family).

As the children watch the images the assembly leader asks them to think about the people that live with them and the things they are asked to do by those people.

The prayer that follows appears on the PowerPoint slides (available separately). The assembly leader introduces the prayer by explaining that he or she will read the first line and the children will join in the response 'Lord, receive our thanks and prayers.'

For all mothers and fathers,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayers.

For the security of homes and family life,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayers.

For the joy of all loving human relationships,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayers.

For your family in this place, and our life together,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayers.

The assembly leader asks the children and young people to think of an occasion when they have said they will do something and then not done it. With that incident in mind the leader prays the following prayer to end the time of collective worship:

Grant us the strength to always do what we say we will, even if it's difficult sometimes. Amen.

Week 2

Love Life Live Lent theme: Caring for our neighbourhood

Collective worship theme: Thinking about how to care for your neighbourhood

Aims:

To encourage children to think about practical ways they can contribute to their neighbourhood.

To help the children to consider the locality where they live and how they can make it a better place.

You will need:

Primary school:

- A 'thank you' card to write as the children come in
- Some neglected and thirsty plants
- A scattering of 'litter' around the assembly hall
- A 'messy corner' (e.g. of PE equipment or instruments or books - you may well not need to 'create' anything!)
- A reader to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan from the Bible
- A copy of the *Love Life Live Lent* children's booklet

Secondary school:

- Certificates and /or prizes to award to members of the school community who have taken actions that have improved the school environment or the wider local environment in some way
- A copy of the *Love Life Live Lent* booklet

Primary school script

The assembly leader pretends to be unaware of the children waiting to start the act of collective worship but is busy writing a thank you card.

Oh, I'm sorry. I just had to write this card to say a big thank you to
(someone the children know such as the caretaker or lollipop lady) for (doing something that improved the neighbourhood such as fetching all the lost balls from the school roof or keeping the children safe crossing the road.
You will have a local example that is perfect for the situation.)

Now we must get on with this morning's assembly.

Today we are going to listen to a parable that Jesus told. It's called the Good Samaritan.

Read the parable from Luke 10: 30-37 from an age appropriate Bible or one of the following 're-tellings' suggested here: 'The Good Stranger' in Stories Jesus Told by Mick Inkpen and Nick Butterworth (Candle Books, 2005, ISBN 0310559405), 'The Parable of the Good Samaritan' in The Complete Guide to Godly Play Volume 3 by Jerome W. Berryman (Living the Good News, 2002, ISBN 1889108979), 'Good Sam' in Telling Even More Tales by Dave and Lynn Hopwood, (CPAS, 2000, ISBN 1902041119), A Teddy Horsley Book.

Neighbours by Leslie Francis and Nicola Slee (Christian Education Publications, 1994, ISBN 071970846X), 'The Class Pain' in Stories for Interactive Assemblies by Nigel Bishop (Barnabas, 2006, ISBN 1841014654)

A parable is a story that illustrates a point and the point of this story is that Jesus wants us all to be good neighbours, to see something that needs doing and to be the one to do it. The priest, the Levite and the Samaritan all saw the man who had been robbed and that he needed help but it was only the Samaritan who actually did anything.

I wonder... if you look around, can you see anything that needs doing that would improve this area?

The children should notice the litter, the mess and the dying plants! Get volunteers to water the plants, tidy the mess and pick up the litter.

Thank the children for improving the area and taking action when they saw that something needed doing.

Refer to the Love Life Live Lent booklet and the actions for the week. Point out that we have already done three of them this morning (action 10 - write a thank you card, action 8 - water a plant, action 35 - pick up litter). Talk about actions that improve the atmosphere and make people feel valued such as sharing a smile (action 5) or a treat (action 11).

Broaden the children's thinking to encompass their own neighbourhood.

When you look around the area where you live is there anything else you could do to improve it?

Some suggestions might be:

To walk to school and reduce traffic congestion and pollution

To report any rubbish that has been dumped to the Local Authority so they can clear it away

To shop locally instead of going to big out-of-town developments

*Continue with the **Prayer** activity below.*

Secondary school script

(For older children the following version might be more appropriate.)

Read the parable from Luke 10: 30-37.

A parable is a story that illustrates a point and the point of this story is that Jesus wants us all to be good neighbours, to see something that needs doing and to be the one to do it. The priest, the Levite and the Samaritan all saw the man who had been robbed and that he needed help but it was only the Samaritan who actually did anything.

Arrange to thank some students, governors, voluntary supporters or members of staff for recent acts of 'neighbourliness' that have improved the school environment or the wider local environment in some way.

Refer to the Love Life Live Lent booklet. Talk about actions that improve the general atmosphere and make people feel valued. Broaden the children's thinking to encompass their own neighbourhood. When you look around the area where you live is there anything else you could do to improve it?

Some suggestions might be:

To walk to school and reduce traffic congestion and pollution

To report any rubbish that has been dumped or graffiti that has been posted to the Local Authority so they can clear it away

To shop locally instead of going to big out-of-town developments

Continue with the Prayer activity below.

Prayer activity for all

Show the PowerPoint slides (available in the separate LLLL PowerPoint presentation), which show typical areas needing improvement in a local neighbourhood (or substitute your own PowerPoint of places or situations in your locality if you prefer).

Ask the children to consider the area around where they live.

Is there something they could do to improve the area for everyone else?

Ask them to bring their ideas to God as you show the powerpoint slides for a second time.

This time the assembly leader reads the prayer on the slide where action needs to be taken and the children pray the response superimposed on the positive action slide.

Open our eyes to see what needs to be done

Help us to be the change we want to see in our neighbourhood

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Help us to be the change we want to see in our neighbourhood.

Week 3

Love Life Live Lent theme: *Caring for our community*

Collective worship theme: *Caring for those who are left out or hidden in our city, town or village.*

Aim:

To encourage children to have an understanding of what it feels like to be in the shoes of those who are left out and hidden in the wider community.

You will need:

- A trestle table decorated for a party
- A party hat to wear
- Balloons blown up
- Flowers in a vase
- Linen napkins
- To prepare one or two other members of staff to interrupt the assembly with an excuse as to why they are unable to come to the party.
- A copy of the 'Big Issue' magazine

Primary school script

If you wish, you could set up a trestle table on a platform and decorate it as if preparing for a party - so wear a party hat, blow up some balloons, put some paper plates out.

The assembly leader begins by telling everyone how excited he or she feels about a party: all the things that have been planned to make the occasion special, the really 'cool' people that have been invited etc. etc. The conversation is interrupted by one or two other members of staff who each give their apologies and the reason why they can't come to the party. As each one delivers his or her message the assembly leader looks increasingly disappointed.

You may like to use this script:

'I am so excited about this party. I sent all my invitations out last week. They were beautiful with gold lettering and a really smart design. Last night I washed and ironed my best napkins - this is going to be a classy affair - no paper serviettes for me! I've been to the florist and got a gorgeous bunch of flowers for the table and I cooked from the moment I got in last night until bedtime. Everything is ready and it's going to be perfect! All that's left is to wait for my guests. You'll never guess whom I've invited? All the very most important people in the school. I really want everyone to think I'm cool and I'm hoping to be best friends with everyone so I can be part of the 'in' crowd!'

Enter the important guests, one by one, with their excuses.

Guest 1: 'I'm so sorry but I won't be able to make it to the party. My husband has just bought a new car and he wants me to see it. OK?'

Guest 2: 'I'm so sorry but I won't be able to make it to the party. I've just bought a new game for my Playstation and I want to try it out. OK?'

Guest 3: 'I'm so sorry but I won't be able to make it to the party. I've promised my boyfriend I'll see him tonight. OK?'

Assembly leader: Well, what am I going to do now? All my plans... I wanted it all to be so perfect! Now it's all spoilt. I know. Jesus told a story about a man who invited guests to a party and then they made excuses and didn't come. Perhaps it will give me an idea of what to do now.'

Read the parable of the great feast from an age appropriate Bible, Luke 14: 15-24, or one of the following 're-tellings' suggested here: 'The Great Banquet' in Young Children and Worship by Sonja M Stewart and Jerome W Berryman (Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989, ISBN 0664250408), 'The Best Party Ever' in Stories for Interactive Assemblies by Nigel Bishop (Barnabas, 2006, ISBN 1841014654).

When the story has been read, the assembly leaders asks the children:

'What did the King do when there was no one to come to his party?

What do you think I should do?

Can you think of anyone who gets left out in our city/town/village? Could I invite them to my party?

OK. So I will. Now where did I put those spare invitations?

*Continue with the **Prayer** activity below*

Secondary School Script

You will need:

- a Bible to read from
- a mobile phone as a prop while you tell the story

Begin by pretending to finish a conversation on your phone. Tell everyone about a friend of yours who had been planning a party for ages. You might like to use this script.

I've just had a call from a friend of mine asking for some advice. He's been planning a party for six weeks. The invitations had all gone out and everyone said they were looking forward to it. He spent a fortune on a DJ and lights. His Mum had got loads of food and they'd even done the room up so the atmosphere was brilliant. Do you know what happened? At about 7.30 on the evening of the party he got a call from someone to say she'd just bought a Nintendo Wii and wanted to play on it so she wouldn't be coming. Can you believe it? Then he got another call from a mate who said his parents had just bought him a car and he was going out in it. He wouldn't be coming either. You can imagine how he was feeling by now! Suddenly the phone rings again and this time it's one of his best friends to say he's just met this new girlfriend and he wants to spend the evening with her instead of coming to the party. My friend was gutted. Everyone let him down. No one could be bothered. I felt so sorry for him. I didn't know what to suggest. Hang on a minute I think Jesus told a story about throwing a party for people who

made excuses and didn't want to come. I wonder if that would give me an idea what to say to him?'

Read the parable of the great feast from an age appropriate Bible, Luke 14: 15-24.

'So Jesus recommends drawing up a new guest list. Interesting. "Don't invite people who will invite you back. Invite the kind of people who will never be able to return the invitation and let God reward you for it later." Quite a challenge. I wonder what he'll make of that advice?'

Can you imagine the impact an action like that would make? Can you imagine inviting to your party all the people who would never have made it onto your original guest list in a million years? Imagine you went to a hospital or a prison or a residential home or a refugee centre and invited everyone back for a party. Think about that as we finish with a prayer.'

*Continue with the following **Prayer activity***

Prayer activity

The PowerPoint slides show different images of people on the margins of society.

The assembly leader tells the children: The Cherokees have a saying 'Grant that I may never find fault with my neighbour until I have walked the trail of life in his moccasins'. As you look at these pictures imagine what it might be like to live your life as someone who gets left out.

Light a candle as a symbol of God's love going out into the darkness and loneliness of some people's lives.

Conclude with this prayer

Grant us,

Lord God,

a vision of our land as your love would make it: a land where the weak are protected,

and none go hungry or poor;

- a land where the benefits of civilised life are shared,

and everyone can enjoy them;

- a land where different races and cultures live in tolerance and mutual respect;

- a land where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

And give us the inspiration and courage to build it,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of love, turn our hearts to your ways; and give us peace. Amen.

From: Prayers for a troubled world www.cofe.anglican.org/prayers

Week 4

Love Life Live Lent theme: School

Collective Worship theme: Choosing to allow the 'seeds' of God's word to change the way we behave in our school.

Aim:

To encourage the children to recognize that they are also 'seeds' that God has planted and that they can choose how they grow and bear fruit.

You will need

A reader to tell the parable of the Sower from the Bible

A reader to read from the epistle to the Galatians

Script for Primary and Secondary Schools

Today we are going to listen to a parable that Jesus told. It's called the parable of the Sower.

Read the parable from Luke 8: 4-8.

A parable is a story with a point. I have some pictures to help me explain what Jesus meant when he told this story (*show the PowerPoint slides*):

[Slide 1]: Imagine all the little seeds that the farmer scattered are the things we read in the Bible about how God wants us to live - the things he

likes us doing and the things he tells us not to do because they make him sad. As you can see in my first picture the seeds are all lying on the path and the birds are pecking at them and eating them up. Those seeds are never going to grow! Some people are like that path. When they hear what God wants them to do, it just doesn't go in and pretty quickly they have forgotten all about it. They don't change their behaviour at all.

[Slide 2]: Some people are like the rocky ground in my next picture. They hear what God wants and they do it really quickly but somehow there isn't any space in their lives for God's ways to put down roots and grow. Their faith stays quite small and doesn't really grow much.

[Slide 3]: Some people are like the thorny ground in this picture. They are so busy with so much other stuff going on in their lives that there simply isn't any room for God at all. They don't change one little bit.

[Slide 4]: But some people are like the good soil in this last picture. When they hear God's word they are all ready and it starts to grow in them. Their behaviour changes so they do all the things that please God. They grow and grow and grow until they produce the fruit of the spirit - good things in their lives to share with other people.

I wonder how we can all learn more about how God wants us to grow?

If appropriate, the assembly leader might like to suggest some ways that people develop their faith and grow as a Christian.

If we all listened to *God* and responded to what we hear would that make a difference in our school?

If appropriate, the assembly leader might like to suggest some ways that faith is seen in action in the school.

Ask the children to look through the *Love Life Live Lent* booklet and see which of the actions they think they can do to show they care about the place where they come to school and the people they meet there too.

Prayer activity

(Explanation: The PowerPoint slide shows seeds in pots with labels. The labels read as follows:

Love (or affection for others)

Joy (or exuberance about life)

Peace (or serenity)

Kindness (or a sense of compassion in the heart)

Faithfulness (or being involved in loyal commitments)

Goodness (or a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people)

Patience (or a willingness to stick with things)

Gentleness (or not needing to force your way in life)

Self-control (or the ability to marshal and direct your energy wisely)

The assembly leader tells the children: 'These pictures show us some of the seeds that *God* scatters around us. Although they look very small here they can grow into wonderful fruit when we plant them in the good soil of our lives.

This reading from the epistle to the Galatians tells us all about the fruit of the spirit that God causes to grow in our lives:

Reader: God brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard - things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.' (Galatians 5, verses 22 and 23 from *The Message* translation of the Bible.)

Assembly leader: As you look at the seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control, think about them growing in your life. Which ones are growing strongly? Are there some that are missing? We are going to ask God to help these seeds grow well in us so we can show we care about our school and the people who work here with us.

This prayer is adapted from one written by St. Francis of Assisi (the prayer is also available on PowerPoint slide).

The leader reads the plain type, the children and young people join in with the bold type:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, **let me sow seeds of love,**

Where there is injury, **let me sow seeds of forgiveness;**

Where there is doubt, **let me sow seeds of faith;**

Where there is despair, **let me sow seeds of hope;**

Where there is darkness, **let me sow seeds of light;**

Where there is sadness, **let me sow seeds of joy.**

Amen.

Week 5

Love Life Live Lent theme: Global

Collective worship theme: Being aware that our global responsibility to all peoples and to our planet is more important than the things we have.

Aim: To encourage children to be aware of people living in other countries who have different life experiences, e.g. those suffering the effects of drought and famine, those who don't receive a fair wage for their work. To help children to realize that it is more important to look after people than to acquire more and more things.

You will need:

- To prepare a few facts about childhood in a different country.
- To have a bag of clean good quality clothing or unwanted gifts or toys suitable for taking to a charity shop to show the children and young people

(There is information for Primary School aged children on the

www.globalgang.org and www.tearfund.org/actionpack.

For Secondary Schools look at

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/3128684.stm for an article on the lives of former child soldiers in Liberia

<http://www.tearfund.org/Churches/HIV+Bring+childhood+back+to+life.htm>

for information about Rachel who is thirteen and cares for her family all alone.)

Script for primary and secondary schools

I began counting my blessings this morning. I jumped in the shower and really enjoyed the hot water splashing all around me. I looked in my wardrobe and was spoiled for choice I had so many clothes to wear. I was so glad to have delicious food for breakfast and clean water to drink before I came here to work. When I turned into the car park I realized I had a great job and I was thankful for that too. I'm so amazed at all my blessings. God has been so good to me.

Jesus told a story about someone who had everything he could possibly need. It is called the parable of the rich fool and it's found in the gospel of Luke chapter 12 verses 13 to 21. I wonder if he felt grateful for all the things God had blessed him with ?

Read the parable from an age-appropriate Bible or one of the following suggested re-tellings here: 'The Rich Farmer' in Stories Jesus Told by Mick Inkpen & Nick Butterworth (Candle Books, 2005, ISBN 0551016698), The Gospels Unplugged by Lucy Moore (BRF, ISBN 1 84101 243 2).

After reading the story the assembly leader asks the children:

I wonder why the rich farmer did not share his wealth?

I wonder if he would have done things differently if he knew he was going to die?

I wonder, do you share what you have with others?

I have been thinking about other people on planet earth who do not have all the things that we often take for granted. *It may be possible to have some food or other items from that country.*

Alternatively, your school may sponsor a child abroad and you may be able to talk about the benefits your sponsorship has brought to that individual.

The assembly leader shows a bag of things he or she is going to take to a charity shop (action 4) and says: I don't want to be like the rich farmer in Jesus' story hoarding up lots of things for myself. I want to be someone who shares what I have.

Continue with the **Prayer activity** below.

The PowerPoint presentation shows images of footsteps across different terrains and landscapes to give the idea of a journey through life and through the world. The lines of the prayer are superimposed on the images so the children can read the prayer as they hear the assembly leader pray it aloud.

Dear Lord,

I expect to pass through this world but once;

And any good thing, therefore, that I can do

Or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature,
Let me do it now;
Let me not defer or neglect it,
for I shall not pass this way again.

A prayer by Stephen Grellet (1773-1855) from *Favourite Prayers chosen by people from all walks of life* compiled by Deborah Cassidi and published by Cassell 1998.