

Primary assembly

Education Sunday 2010

CALLED TO SERVE

PowerPoint and music as children enter

PowerPoint available to download. Suggested music:

- Madness – ‘Simple Equation’
- Enrique Iglesias – ‘Hero’
- West Life – ‘You Raise Me Up’
- West Life - ‘Flying Without Wings’
- Mariah Carey – ‘There’s a Hero’

Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10 (Good News Bible)

Jeremiah was an Old Testament prophet who lived a long time before Jesus. He was called by God to tell His people how they should behave and what they should do. But in this reading we hear how God asked Jeremiah to work for Him and Jeremiah’s response. Think about what Jeremiah did and said. What would you have done?

‘The Lord said to me, “I chose you before I gave you life, and before you were born I selected you to be a prophet to the nations.” I answered “Sovereign Lord, I don’t know how to speak; I am too young.” But the Lord said to me, “Do not say you are too young, but go to the people I send you to, and tell them everything I command you to say. Do not be afraid of them, for I will be with you to protect you. I, the Lord have spoken!” Then the Lord stretched out his hand, touched my lips, and said to me, “Listen, I am giving you the words you must speak. Today I give you authority over nations and kingdoms to uproot and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”’

Song

Suggested songs:

- Make me a Channel of Your Peace
- One More Step Along the World I go
- I the Lord of Sea and Sky

Talk

(If possible have some children dressed up in costumes, e.g. fire-fighter, policeman, nurse, doctor, teacher etc)

When you grow up, what do you want to be? A fire-fighter? (Go through any profession that you have a costume for) Is there anything else you would like to be? Who doesn’t know what they want to be?

Many of us don’t know what we want to do as a profession, when we are young, but how do we decide? First of all we don’t have to make a quick decision and there are lots smaller decisions we will make on the way. But what happened to Jeremiah? Did he want to do what God said? How did he feel? Is it the same for

us? God does have a plan for us and we can choose to listen to Him, or we can choose to ignore Him. But Jeremiah chose to listen to God and God promised that He would be with Jeremiah and give him the words to say. If we listen to God He will help us and give us the words we need to say. It is unlikely you will wake up one morning knowing exactly what you are going to do with the rest of your life and what you want to be, but you can gradually put the pieces together. There will be someone there to help and guide you, advising you what exams to take and which course to study.

When someone finds the exact fit for them and they are very happy in their work, we often say they have found their true vocation. For the adults in this room, many will have found their vocation and we need to remember to say thank you to them and for them. This Sunday is Education Sunday and it is the time that Christians remember education and the gift of learning. It is a time to say thank you to all those who work in education and to remember how lucky we are to have a free education in this country. A time to thank God for all the opportunities we have and to ask God to help all of us find our true vocation. A time to remember all those who do not have the opportunity to go to school and to remind us to think before we say "Mum, dad do I have to go to school?"

Prayer

For this prayer put your hands together, but look at your hands.

Look at your thumbs which are nearest to you and as we pray, we pray for those nearest to us: our family and friends who are there to support and guide us. We thank God for them.

Next it's our index finger or pointing finger. Often we use this finger to tell people something or teach something, so as we look at this finger we remember all those people who have taught us and who work in our school and we thank God for them.

Next is our middle finger, the tallest. As we look at this finger we remember all the leaders of the world and ask God to help them make the right decisions.

Then it's our ring finger, the weakest finger, so we pray for all the weakest and poorest people of the world and ask God to bless them and help us to find ways to allow all children to in the world to have an education.

Finally we come to our little finger and we remember ourselves, asking God for His blessing on us, to help us to make the right decisions, to listen to Him and for Him to give us the right words to say. We ask these prayers in Jesus name.

Amen.

Music and PowerPoint to close

© 2010 Education Sunday Steering Group

The Education Sunday 2010 theme was devised by an ecumenical steering group co-ordinated by Churches Together in England representing the following Christian denominations and organisations: the Association of Christian Teachers, the Baptist Union, the Catholic Church, the Church of England and the National Society, the Methodist Church, The Salvation Army, the Student Christian Movement and the United Reformed Church. The material in this resource was written by members of the *Transforming Lives* Project and the Education Sunday team. All worship material in this publication may be freely copied for single-occasion use as part of Christian worship. Any organisations or individuals wishing to reproduce this material in any other circumstances should seek prior permission from the Education Sunday Steering Group, Churches Together in England, 27 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HH.

