

EDUCATION SUNDAY

OUTLINE FOR KS 2 & 3 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

16TH FEBRUARY 2014

Going above and beyond ...

Matthew 5.21-37

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Theme: An important theme in the teaching of Jesus was about our relationships with others – so much so that he suggested that the quality of relationships with others actually affected our relationship with him. This outline for collective worship explores situations in which people have gone above and beyond their duty or exceeded others' expectations in order to protect those around them.

Key words/themes: Changing an unfair situation (SEAL), Wisdom, skill.

Bible passage/key verses: Matthew 5:21-37

Visual Aids:

3 large cards:

Above and beyond

Expected

Below expectation

For KS1 use better/expected/less

Note:

The subject of war is a difficult one. You may wish to take the opportunity to emphasise that there are victims on both sides of any war, and that war is the last resort.

Introduction:

Explain that you are going to ask for three volunteers to help you, each to hold one of the cards.

(Note: it might be advisable to organise with a teacher before the start of the assembly)

Start by suggesting there are only three things you are going to do today.

- You will either do what is expected.
- Or do more than expected.
- Or do less.

You will, for example, clear up your own mess on the desk. Or clear up the whole desk and other people's mess. Or walk away and expect someone else to clear it up for you.

Main content:

In a corner of Green Park is a statue – called the Boy David Memorial and every Remembrance Sunday (closest Sunday to 11th November) when many people hold a two-minute silence, a small loyal group of people lay their wreaths. This statue was made in 1925, crafted by a sculptor called Derwent Wood, and is the memorial of the Machine Gun Corps from the First World War.

The Machine Gun Corps' task was to fire a Vickers Machine Gun. It was heavy, carried by two people, and could fire 500 bullets a minute. The bullets were on a belt which had 250 bullets in it – and the round would last for about 30 seconds. The machine gun was probably the most feared weapon in the First World War.

What this meant was that machine gunners were the target for every enemy bullet and shell. To be a machine gunner meant you had to be very brave. Although the men in the Machine Gun Corps were ordinary people – they had to go above and beyond their duty and they put their lives on the line for all the other soldiers.



But what is this memorial? Well, sadly no-one from the Machine Gun Corps is alive to stand there, only family members.

On top of the memorial is a statue of a young man. It is a statue of King David, in the Bible, but when he was a boy, before he was King.

In one hand he has a sword almost as big as himself. In the other he holds what looks like a piece of rope. In fact it is a leather sling, the weapon used by soldiers and shepherds over 3000 years ago in the Middle East.

On the front of the memorial it says this:

“Saul has slain his thousands, but David his tens of thousands”.

So why was this put on the memorial?

(You may like to identify actors to take on roles in the story).

It comes from a story in the Old Testament, at a time when Israel was in deep trouble. The Philistines were on the march, and this time they had a secret weapon! His name was Goliath, a champion fighter. He stood three metres high and was dressed in bronze armour from head to foot. Every day he would stride out and jeer at the Israelites, “Good morning little people, this is Goliath speaking.” He bellowed across the hillside. “Why don’t you send someone to fight me? Don’t try to tell me you’re scared” Then he turned back to his camp laughing at them. *(Goliath mimes and rubs his tummy, leaning back to laugh heartily)*

This had gone on morning and evening for over a month. David’s brothers were scared. The Israelite army were all terrified of the huge giant. He was asking for just one of the Israelites to fight him to save both the Israelite and Philistine armies hurting each other. Whoever won the fight with Goliath would win the war for their country, and no one wanted to volunteer.

David (at the time) was too young to be the army, but he was sent to the battlefield in order to give his older brothers their pack of food. He was surprised to see everyone so gloomy. Even king Saul, King of the Israelites, was staring into space. When young David heard about Goliath, he was shocked.

“God will protect us!” said David. “He’s protected me against bears and lions, he will protect us from Goliath!”

David was really brave, but he had learned to trust God to protect him and his sheep from many wild animals, he'd fought off foxes, warred with wolves and battled with bears.

"I will fight Goliath!" said David. His brothers looked shocked and tried to talk some sense into him! But no one could change David's mind, so they tried to help him. They put the king's armour onto David, (Actors mime) who staggered and nearly fell over with the weight on his small body, he tried to fight and throw a few punches but he fell over.

David knew that God would help him. He didn't need someone else's armour. David took off the king's helmet and breastplate and as he walked to face the enemy, he picked five smooth stones. He had become very skilled in finding the best stones.

The Philistine giant was just beginning his usual speech. "Good evening little people, this is Goliath speaking..." when suddenly a movement caught his eye. A young boy was walking towards him from the ranks of the Israelites. The giant made a few squatting movements with his sword. "Run along, sonny. If you hang around here, you could get hurt!"

"And so might you!" shouted David, fingering one of the five small stones. "You may be covered in armour from head to foot, but I come to fight you in the name of the living Lord!"

Well, the giant never saw the stone as it flew towards him and with a look of utter surprise, the giant rocked and then crashed to the ground.

A huge cheer rang out from the Israelites as David ran up and picked up the huge sword the Philistine had been carrying.

David faced up to this huge man – so that no one else in the army had to! He did much more than anyone expected him to do that day!

He did not just do what was EXPECTED. Nor did he run away and do LESS. He did MORE.

Pupil responses/outcomes/prayer

The key question to ask is why should we do more than is expected of us? Or, in old fashioned words: why should we do more than our duty? Is it just because we want the thanks and praise of others? Or to make others feel inadequate? In other words .. do we do it to show off?

David did not show off – but he wanted to do something that would save his people.

In fact, many years later he wrote a poem that said this: Psalm 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

So Jesus explains in the Sermon on the Mount that we should do more than expected, but not for thanks, but because that is the way we should think and act. Doing all we can, not just the basics!

Lord thank you that you are always with us. Whatever we may face in life, please help us to live the life you want us to.

And if you agree with my prayer, you can say a quiet 'Amen'. **Amen**