



## KS1 AND KS2 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP 2018: THREE CHEERS FOR EVERYONE!

### Resources

Three chairs with labels

**MOST  
IMPORTANT  
PERSON 1**

**MOST  
IMPORTANT  
PERSON 2**

**MOST  
IMPORTANT  
PERSON 3**

### Introduction

*Put three chairs out the front of the hall in a line – each with one of the labels from above.*

Begin by saying that at the end of this assembly/collective worship, we will choose three people to sit in these seats. The question is, who will it be?

Ask the question: 'If I were to pick one person to sit here (point to **MOST IMPORTANT PERSON 3**), do you think they could select the person to sit in (pointing) **chair 2**? And could that person then pick someone to sit in (pointing) **chair 1**?'

### Story

*Tell the following story.*

Tom had a problem. It was his birthday coming up in two weeks, and he wanted to invite his class to his birthday party after school on Friday, before his birthday on the Saturday.

He was thinking...deeply...about the problem and decided to talk to his mum who was in 'getting the dinner ready' mode!

Tom walked into the kitchen and said – just like this – 'Mum, you know it is my birthday in two weeks. Can I have a party?'

'Yes,' said Mum, not actually listening.

'Can I have spaghetti bolognaise and cake and doughnuts?'

Mum responded with a sigh. 'Er...I suppose so.'

'Can we have party games?'

'Yes, I suppose so,' said Mum, getting a bit irritated by now.

'And can I invite my whole class to my birthday party?'

Silence. Mum was now fully concentrating on Tom.

'What?!' exclaimed Mum. 'All of them? No! Absolutely NO! You can see how small our flat is! You can only invite three friends.'

CONTINUED...





‘Only three?!’ Tom replied, getting upset.

‘Yes. That’s what I said.’

Tom, by now, was really upset and stomped off into the lounge.

Later on, after tea, when Tom and Mum had calmed down, Mum suggested that Tom pick three friends to come to his party.

The next day, Tom was in school and, during silent reading, looked around the class. Hmm. Who to invite? He made a list in his head. Carl? –Yes! Definitely Carl. Omar? Yes, because he went to Omar’s party. Pete? Yes, must ask Pete, Pete was good fun. Sophie? Yes, she can come. And what about...? Oh no! Already too many! And he had not even thought about Matthew, Sebastian, the other Peter, Charlotte... He put his head on his desk. He felt like shouting – but not during silent reading!

He met Mum at the school gate after school. He was quiet...much more quiet than usual, and Mum noticed this.

‘What’s up?’ asked Mum as they turned into their road.

‘Nothing!’

‘Don’t give me that, “Nothing” look!’ Mum stopped walking, ‘What is it?’

And out it all came! Tom exploded! ‘You said I can only have three friends and I’ve got lots of friends – and – and...’ and on he went. (It was quite funny really, but Mum did her best not to laugh!)

And then Mum said something rather clever. ‘So, think of an answer!’ she said plainly, and then walked off.

Tom, stood on the pavement! His mouth open.

## Bible story

*Explain to the children that you are going to come back to the story later, but first you are going to hear a story from the Bible, **Mark 7:24-36**.*

Jesus was often in the middle of big crowds. Everyone wanted to talk to him. One time he was trying to hide a bit to get some peace and quiet. But soon there was woman at the door – a woman from another country and she spoke a different language too!

The woman was desperate. Her daughter was very ill and she begged Jesus to help her.

‘Why should I help you?’ said Jesus. ‘It does not seem fair to help you rather than my own people first. If I give food to you, I can’t give food to my friends. It would be like me giving some dinner to my pet dog and leaving my children to starve!’

‘I understand’, said the woman looking straight at Jesus. ‘But even pet dogs can eat the scraps from plates! So people like me need just a little help too!’

Jesus looked at her – her reply was a good one. And Jesus then showed that he was indeed listening.

‘You go home,’ he said warmly, ‘your daughter will be fine!’

CONTINUED...





## Application

*Ask the children to think about the three chairs again that you introduced at the beginning.*

So here we have three chairs. How could we choose three people to sit in them? Should I ask for volunteers? Or I could ask someone to nominate someone? Or we could ask who might deserve to sit there? But which person might sit in the best seat?

## Optional extension for KS2/3:

James, who wrote a book in the New Testament, wrote this:

Don't let public opinion influence how you live... If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, 'Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!' and either ignore the street person or say, 'Better sit here in the back row,' haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted?

...Isn't it clear by now that God operates quite differently? He chose the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens, with full rights and privileges. This kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God. (James 2:1-5, The Message)

*Now take the children back to Tom's story again.*

## Back to the story...

So, what do you think Tom decided to do?

After tea, Tom went to his room. He wrote out a list of his class and decided to cross off those he could not invite. After lots of lists and lots of crossing out, he sighed and went downstairs.

He went up to Mum. First, he apologised, which was good of him. And then he said something his mum did not expect. 'I have decided not to have a party, because I don't want anyone in my class to feel second best. Is that ok?'

Mum looked at him and smiled. 'That sounds like a good idea. But I've been thinking too. Maybe we could hire the scout hall and have your party there? Then you can invite your whole class.'

She put on her serious face. 'But I am not cooking spaghetti bolognaise!'

Tom said nothing, but hugged his mum. This was going to be his best ever party!

## Prayer/reflection:

As we come to our reflection – maybe we should not choose anyone to sit here in these three chairs – but if we were to leave them here, maybe when someone at schools feels sad, or a failure, or lonely or is just not having a good day. Perhaps they could sit here for a while – because they deserve it.

Dear God, thank you that you love **everyone**. You want us all to feel special and chosen. May we learn to include everyone around us – and not to judge people in any way. Because that is how you love and accept us.

## Amen

You could finish with: '**Three cheers for everyone!**' (chairs? Pun intended! Get it?)

