

TEACHING:

Relating to Matthew 18.15-20

- The blindfold: sometimes we don't see where we are going wrong; this is why we've used a blindfold today.
- Gloves: sometimes we haven't learnt well enough how to handle our lives.
- Cutting up chocolate with a knife and fork isn't something we do every day but there are things we need to do every day. We have to have Jesus in our lives to help us handle both everyday and one-off situations.
- As a community, we share what we have...
Distribute the previously-cut squares of chocolate around the congregation.

PRAYERS/INTERCESSIONS:

As a community we pray for people.

The leader may invite members of the congregation to offer suggestions for prayer, under the headings 'the world', 'the church', 'ourselves'.

PRAYERS OF COMMITMENT:

On Education Sunday we have the opportunity to thank God for those who serve us in the field of education, and to pray for all learners.

You may wish to use the Education Sunday prayer of commitment at this point.

HYMN/SONG

BLESSING

An outline for all-age worship for Education Sunday 2017

GATHERED IN MY NAME

This is an outline rather than an order of service. The worship leader(s) should feel free to select from the ideas offered, omit some and substitute others.

Suggestions for prayers and hymns, and the prayer of commitment, are offered as additional resources on the Education Sunday website.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

You may wish to use a gathering prayer from the Education Sunday resources.

OPENING HYMN:

All are welcome: (Marty Haugen)

PRAYERS:

See the *Education Sunday prayer resource* for suggestions.

READING:

Psalm 149.1-5



SONG:

Praise him on the trumpet, the psaltery and harp ... (John Kennett)

If you have percussion instruments in the church, invite members of the congregation to take them and make a joyful noise during this song.

IMPROVISED SKETCH:

You will need 6 fairly confident volunteers. You may wish to prepare them beforehand, but the sketch should be improvised rather than scripted to avoid it seeming stilted.

Part 1:

Scene: A classroom.

Props: 1 chair

Pupil (1) sitting, and teacher (2) standing.

The pupil has misbehaved and the teacher is telling him/her off.

The pupil continues to misbehave.

Part 2:

Scene: An office

Props: 3 chairs

Pupil (1), teacher (2), head of year (3), and head teacher (4), sitting.

The teacher tells the head of year and head teacher about the pupil's behaviour. The pupil appears not to be paying attention.

Part 3:

Scene: An office

Props: 6 chairs (or all standing, if that is easier)

Pupil (1), teacher (2), head of year (3), head teacher (4), parents (5 and 6)

The head teacher, teacher, head of year and parents are all telling the pupil that s/he needs to improve his/her attitude/behaviour.

The pupil does not listen.

The leader asks the congregation to suggest what happens next.

BIBLE READING:

Matthew 18.15-20

SONG/HYMN:

See *Education Sunday hymn resources* for suggestions.

ACTIVITY:

You will need 4 volunteers. They need to be old enough to use a knife and fork and to follow instructions.

Equipment:

2 tables and chairs

2 blindfolds

2 large pairs of gloves (gardening gloves would be suitable)

2 knives and 2 forks (not sharp)

2 large bars of Fairtrade chocolate (unwrapped), and extra chocolate already cut into squares to distribute to congregation

2 plastic mats (or similar) for the tables

Wet wipes

Instructions:

Set up the tables with a chair at each, the bar of chocolate lying on the plastic mat, or other table protector. One knife and fork should be set on each table, and a pair of gloves and blindfold on each chair.

One volunteer sits on each chair, with a helper behind her/him.

At the leader's signal, the helpers assist the volunteers to put on the gloves and blindfolds, carefully checking that they cannot see. The leader tells them they must not remove the blindfold.

The leader instructs the volunteer to cut one square of chocolate from the large bar. It must be just one square and it must be neatly cut. You may wish to limit the time to add to the pressure, and there is the option of disorientating the volunteer before you start so that their first challenge is to locate the chocolate.

When the time is up (at the leader's discretion), each helper holds up the cut piece of chocolate.

The leader asks the congregation for feedback. Was that operation a success? What would make it better?

Would it help to get more people involved?

The volunteers are asked to have another go, but this time the helpers become advisors and can give them instructions. Is this easier/more successful?

What happens if the whole church can shout out instructions, or come and offer help?

Did the leaders suggest taking off the gloves?