

SECONDARY COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Education Sunday is a special day when the churches think about and pray for everyone in schools, colleges, and universities. Each year there is a special theme to help us think about something that is important in education. This year the theme is “The armour of light”.

BIBLE READING

Romans 13: 8-14

Who wears armour? Who wears protective clothing? (Police/anime/Iron Man/army use tanks/soldiers/even masks during covid)

Powerpoint presentation of different people who wear “armour” or consider dressing someone in armour (if a dressing-up set is available).

Why do they wear it? What are they protecting themselves from? Who are they protecting?

A STORY TO SHARE

Quinn was walking down the street wearing their new shirt. They loved how the sun reflected the sparkle of the sequined collar. Quinn marvelled at the colourful material it was made of.

Quinn had been feeling a little down recently as people had started saying some rather nasty things to them, but today they were feeling optimistic and happy. They walked with a straight back and their head held high.

Suddenly Quinn was aware of some people walking behind them. They were whispering and sniggering. Quinn started to feel very uncomfortable. Quinn started to slouch, the happy smile slipped from their face. They hoped it wasn't them they were sniggering at.

The nearer the group got to Quinn the clearer the voices.

“What do they think they look like?” (laughter)

“Where did they find that shirt? In the bins?” (laughter)

“Sequins, do they think they are still in the 70's?” (laughter)

Quinn heard a shout from the group. “Hey, what are you wearing?” (laughter)

But before Quinn had a chance to answer, someone else did:

“It is a fab shirt, isn't it? I love it.”

CONTINUED...



They all turned to see who had spoken but all that could be seen was the sun reflecting off some sequins.

As the person stepped forward, Quinn gasped. The voice was wearing a similar shirt, one covered in sequins all down the arms.

“Hi, I’m Amir. You off to college?”

“Er, yes,” replied Quinn.

“Great, let’s walk together.”

The crowd who had been following stopped in their tracks.

With confidence Amir turned to them and said, “Was there something you were going to say?”

“Um, no,” they mumbled.

“Thought not,” said Amir. Turning to Quinn they said, “Friends are like armour – when they stick together, they keep each protected.”

Quinn stood upright again and a smile reappeared on their face. Amir and Quinn linked arms and strode off down the road, leaving the others gawping as they went.

SUMMARY

At school and in life we can sometimes feel lonely, sad, isolated, scared, or face difficulties and challenges; we might feel we want to put on some protective clothing. The Bible tells us we can put on the armour of light when things feel tough. Perhaps we should share our armour of light with those who feel this way. Perhaps we could help to protect them, befriend, and support them – light up their life a little. This is a way of showing love for your neighbour, for those people we live amongst.

WATCH/ SING

If you have facilities for showing videos, you may like to watch this music video which talks about letting the light of Jesus shine through us.

<https://youtu.be/C4XwH7UitU?si=vrZ8PGcsLKg7k86> – This little light of mine – LZ7 (The message trust)

TO THINK ABOUT/ TAKE FURTHER

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/friends/>

This website explores what it means to be a friend to another person.

