



**2024  
LEARNING  
TOGETHER:**  
EDUCATION IN  
OUR COMMUNITY

## All Age Worship - Education Sunday 2024

Before the service, have a large map of your area displayed at the front. This might be a printed map, or one that you have drawn in outline beforehand.

Put a sticker, photo or post-it note on the map to show where your church is.

You may also like to have a map of the UK alongside it.

Have stickers or small post-it notes available, with some pens.

### Call to Worship

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,  
which can never be shaken, never be moved.

As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the Lord surrounds his people  
now and for ever.

(Psalm 125.1-2)

### Song

Welcome Everybody ([Fischy Music - www.fischy.com](http://www.fischy.com))

(more ideas for hymns and songs can be found in the Education Sunday resource pack).

### Prayers of adoration and approach

We come to worship you, God

We come to learn together.

We come to sing, to pray, to listen and to share.

We come to celebrate, to laugh together and sometimes to cry together.

We come because we are your children.

**Amen.**

## Talk 1

### Education in our community

Ask everyone to look at the map. Can anyone put a sticker/post-it note on the map to show where there is a school, college or university? Ask them to come to the front to do so. They may like to write the name of the school, college or university on their sticker/post-it note. There might even be a pre-school or nursery that meets in the church building.

If you are using projection, you could also have photos of the school, college or university ready to show when someone identifies its location.

How many people have a connection with each of the places that have been marked on the map? What is their connection?

Does the church have a connection with any of these places? Perhaps the minister/vicar visits to lead collective worship, or is on the governing board? Or perhaps pupils from the school come to visit the church sometimes?

It can be surprising to find out how many connections there are already with local schools, colleges or universities.

If you have young people in the church family who are at university or studying away from home, you could mark the places where they study on the map of the UK – or beyond.

Does the church ever pray for these places of education, and all those who work and study in them?

Maybe you can keep the map in the church as a reminder to pray for each school, college or university?

### Prayer of confession

Sometimes we forget to care about other people, even when they live in our own community. Let's say sorry to God for the things that we forget to do, and for the times when we don't do what we know we should do.

There are lots of people around us, in our own town, village or city, and we know that you love them all, God.

Sometimes we aren't very good at showing your love to people at school, at work, or our

neighbours, and we are sorry for that.

Forgive us when don't treat people as well as we should.

Thank you that you are always with us, and you care for us all. **Amen.**

## Song

Do all the good you can – Richard Mainwaring

This song was written for the Methodist Schools Conference in 2023, using the words of John Wesley.

A video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRz3STCk-tc>

Words and music with guitar chords are available here:

<https://media.methodist.org.uk/media/documents/richard-mainwaring-do-all-the-good-you-can-lead-sheet.pdf>

## Reading:

James 2. 1-10 and 14-17

## Talk 2

You will need two volunteers who have been asked in advance of the service to bring with them some accessories. Ask one of them (A) to bring things to wear that make them look well-dressed, with exaggerated jewellery. The other person (B) can bring something that makes them look scruffy – perhaps some scraps of cloth that they can drape around them to look like rags, and they could take their shoes off, and make their hair look messy. Encourage both of your volunteers to use their imagination!

The leader should have some nicely bound books, some pens, and perhaps a smart notebook. They should also have some torn bits of newspaper, a tatty book and a pencil stub.

Ask the volunteers to come to the front. Make a point of giving A a seat and asking them politely to sit down. Tell B to sit on the floor.

Give A the good equipment: books, notebook and pens.

Give B the scraps of newspaper and pencil stub.

Does this happen in your school, college or university? Should it happen in those places?

Do we treat people differently, depending on whether they are rich or poor, neat or scruffy?

If we listen to the words in James, we know that as followers of Jesus, we must never treat people differently because of how they look.

James reminds us of Jesus' teaching that we should love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

On Education Sunday, this passage can help us to remember that everyone deserves the chance to learn, regardless of whether they are rich or poor, what they look like or where they live.

If we look at our two volunteers again, we might say that it is wrong that they are treated differently. But what are we going to do about it? Has anyone got any ideas?

James tells us that "if [faith] is alone and includes no actions, it is dead.

What can we do to make sure that everyone, both in our own community and in the global community, has the opportunity to learn?

If you are able, you may wish to show this video from UNICEF about children learning in different parts of the world: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8nNLZlZrQ>

## Hymn

We are your people – Brian Wren

## Prayer of thanksgiving

Have some folded cards ready to give to everyone, with pens/pencils available.

Jesus, our teacher,

We thank you for the gift of education.

Some of us go to school or college to learn, and others continue to learn throughout our lives.

We thank you for the sense of wonder that comes with finding out new things

We thank you for the friends we make

We thank you that we have teachers who care about us and want us to do our best. **Amen.**

After the prayer, ask everyone who wants to, to write some words of thanks, or draw on the cards, to thank those who work in local schools, colleges or university – remind them that it is not just the teachers, but also support staff, administrative staff and those who look after the buildings who

create the environment for learning.

Collect the cards at the end of the service and arrange to deliver them to a place of education in your own community, perhaps with a gift of chocolate or cake. You could put the cards at the front, around your map.

## Commissioning prayer

Pray for all those who work or learn in schools, colleges or universities in your community. Invite them to stand or wave when they recognise their role.

[The words for a specially-written prayer can be found among the Education Sunday resources for 2024.](#)

## Hymn

Help us, o Lord, to learn – William Reid

## Prayers of intercession

Loving God,

As we celebrate the gift of education, we remember those who find it difficult to learn. We bring to you children and young people in places where education is disrupted because of war and conflict. We pray for those who are excluded from education because they can't afford it, or because of their gender.

Help us to put our faith into action and to work for peace and equality in your world. **Amen.**

## Hymn

You shall go out with joy - Stuart Dauermann

## Blessing

May we go out from this church eager to learn even more,  
Ready to share God's love with the people around us,  
And thankful for God's good gifts. **Amen.**