




**A LIFE OF SERVICE:
MAN LOWERED THROUGH THE ROOF**

Collective Worship
Spring Term 2021

These teacher notes and the accompanying presentation are designed to support you in exploring the concept of Christian service with pupils. This act of collective worship focuses on the story of the group of friends who lowered their paralysed friend through the roof so he could be healed by Jesus. This act of collective worship could be done live, with each teacher delivering from their own classroom, or it could be recorded by the head teacher or senior leader and shared with each class or bubble remotely.

Collective worship in school should be **inspiring, inclusive and invitational**. Adults leading worship should feel free to adapt these materials so that they are comfortable and they are well-matched to your own context. For guidance on collective worship see:

http://www.dioceseofcoventry.org/images/document_library/UDR02852.pdf

Pre-Collective Worship Task:

Spend some time talking about team work. Which things are easier to do with a team? Does everyone in your team need to be exactly the same?

Worship Table: You will need a green cloth on your altar table to show we are once again in 'ordinary time' in the liturgical calendar: green for growing!

You will also need 3 candles to light to represent the 3 persons of the Trinity.

Preparation and Resources: You will need the 3 candles and the PowerPoint presentation.

The Main Content:

Welcome

Show slide 2. Light each of the 3 candles as you say the welcome.

We gather together in the name of:

- *God the Father, who sees the struggles of humanity*
- *Jesus the Son, who shows love for others through the things that he does*
- *The Holy Spirit, who made amazing things happen in the Bible!*

Alternatively, you may want to start with a Christian blessing from the Church of England such as:

*May God give to you and to all those you love
his comfort and his peace,
his light and his joy,
in this world and the next
Amen*

or

*The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace.
Amen*

You can also use something simple such as:

*We gather together to meet as our school family
We all come together as important parts of our school community
We gather to meet together with God*

Today we are continuing our focus on serving others. We will learn about how a group of friends worked together to get their paralysed friend into the right place at the right time so that he could have a life-changing encounter with Jesus. They had one goal: to use their able bodies to help someone who could not help themselves.

Learning

Show slide 3. This is an African piece of art showing the moment in today's Bible story when the friends of a paralysed man, who had never been able to walk, lower him down through the roof of a house to Jesus who is waiting below. Look at the faces of those that are crowded around the man and Jesus. How are they feeling? What are they thinking?

There is a great scene showing the miracle of the paralysed man in the series about Jesus, *The Chosen*, which you can show a clip from [here](#). Alternatively, you may want to read the account of the miracle from your own Bible of choice and have pupils play the parts of the four friends, the paralysed man and Jesus as you tell the story.

Reflecting

Go to slide 4. The paralysed man knew he needed help but he could not get it on his own. He needed friends. He needed a team of people prepared to put his needs first and to use all their efforts to help him. One man could not achieve this but working as a team they have managed something extraordinary. We are stronger together. When we join together with others, our courageous advocacy can make wonderful things happen!

Move on to slide 5. The Bible says that when Christians use their bodies, like living sacrifices, to help and support others, that is like doing service for God. Serving others is how the love of God can be shown to others through actions.

Spend a few moments thinking about the ways you can join together with others to help people. Perhaps you can organise a fundraising event together? Perhaps you can form a group to make friends with those who look lonely on the playground at breaktime? Maybe you can volunteer as play leaders or junior librarians or other leadership roles so that you can work as a team to make your school better. If you are on the school council you are already part of a group that is serving your school community.

Responding

Go to slide 6 and read the Bible verse. When Jesus had healed the paralysed man, he told him to pick up his mat and go home. I wonder what he did with his mat? Did he keep it and was always reminded of his miracle? Or did he give it away, so that someone else in need could use what he no longer needed? Perhaps he hung it

outside his home and it became a community symbol of the power of God and what a few friends can achieve when they really set their minds to it?

Move to slide 7. Show the acrostic and ask the pupils to join in saying it with you as their commitment to serving others and being part of a team committed to kindness.

Alternatively, you may wish to end with an Anglican liturgical prayer:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.***

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Amen

Post-Collective Worship Task:



Look at the link for Pay It Forward Day <https://payitforwardday.com/about/how-does-it-work/>. This initiative began when a young boy did 3 good deeds for others in need. In return, all that he wanted was that they pass on the good deed to three other people and keep the cycle going. Soon there were hundreds of people 'paying it forward' and doing good deeds to help each other. There is a clip from the movie of the same title that tells the boy's story and you can watch the scene where he explains his idea to the class [here](#).

You could start your own 'Pay It Forward Day' in school and keep track of the ripple of good deeds and kind actions as people receive an act of kindness and 'pay it forward'. Share examples on your school website or social media feeds or dedicate a section of your next school newsletter to documenting these acts of service.



Send home some talk homework for families: *Today we have been thinking about the paralysed man who was healed by Jesus because his friends worked as a team to get him the help he needed. Our family is a ready-made team; who can we help?*