



**INTRODUCTORY GUIDE TO 40ACTS
TOGETHER IN SCHOOLS**

40ACTS 2018

WEDNESDAY 14 FEBRUARY TO SATURDAY 31 MARCH 2018

40ACTS THEME 2018: FAITH IN DEED



40acts.org.uk

40acts Together in Schools - Introductory Guide

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INTRODUCTORY GUIDE TO 40ACTS TOGETHER IN SCHOOLS

WHAT IS 40ACTS?

40acts is a generosity challenge which invites people to do Lent a bit differently.

During the forty days of Lent, 40acts participants will be invited to take part in forty simple acts of generosity which will challenge them to 'do Lent generously' in 2018.

Lent marks a pivotal point in the history of the church, when Jesus prepared to give himself up as a sacrifice.

Traditionally we mark Lent by giving something up, but what if it could do more than that? What if Lent was a preparation for a lifetime of big-heartedness?

Small acts of generosity, performed by thousands of people across the UK and beyond, have the power to make a big change to our communities and, ultimately, to our world.

The 40acts in schools pack is provided by a partnership between **Stewardship** and **Scripture Union**.

WHY RUN 40ACTS TOGETHER IN SCHOOLS?

The idea is simple – during the period of Lent, as a whole school, you give something back, not give something up.

There are loads of great reasons to run 40acts in your school. Taking time to reflect on the difference generosity can make in our own lives, as well as the lives of others, contributes to the spiritual, moral and character development of pupils. Following the RE material included here encourages pupils to learn about religious beliefs and values in a way which is being out-worked within the school community. The project also supports the core British value of respect for others.



You will see on the challenge cards links to British values. 40acts is a brilliant way to help the school demonstrate a positive impact on pupils' development – spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

Please assure your staff that this project does not necessarily have to be religiously focused, unless of course that is appropriate for your school. 40acts is simply a way to encourage staff and pupils to be more outward-looking and generous in their community.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

We have created a range of resources that you can pick and mix from which will suit your particular school.

They include:

- Forty Challenge Cards, i.e. one for each day of Lent with a specific challenge to encourage and help students and staff to reach out generously to others in their school;
- Six assembly outlines;
- Lesson materials for Key Stages 1 and 2;
- Challenge Card certificate;
- Challenge Card Bingo game template;
- Extra resources: power points for assemblies and lesson plans;

If you would like more assembly outlines and lesson materials, there are different themes in our 2017 and 2016 resource packs which are still available to download (both for KS1 and KS2).

Firstly, you'll need someone to coordinate the project. Presumably, since you're reading this, that's you!

THE CHALLENGE CARDS

Each class will need their own set of Challenge Cards. Print the challenges onto card – don't laminate them – it takes far too long! There are also some blank cards if you want to write your own challenges.

Each school day, beginning Wednesday 14th February (start of Lent 2018) every class picks a Challenge Card at random and this becomes their challenge for that day.

How you want to go about selecting your act for the day is totally up to you. You may want to:

- Put the cards in a hat and pick one out each day;
- Work through them in order;
- Blindfold a child and play a daily game of 'pin the challenge!';
- Use cards numbered 1–40 and pick one out each day to find its corresponding challenge on the wall chart.



Since it is individual to each class, it is fine if each class is doing something different. It can be really good fun to see if you can guess what a particular class's act for the day is.

The hope is that by day 41 (after Easter holidays) the children may still be asking what their act for the day is. If they do, don't discourage them! Keep it going!

ASSEMBLY OUTLINES/COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We've created six new assemblies that can be used during Lent. (More options in the 2017 and 2016 packs.) These will help the school community further unpack what it means to live generously. The assembly themes reflect those found on the Challenge Cards.

ASSEMBLIES

Assembly theme	Learning objectives
Introduction to 40acts	What does it mean to be special and valuable?
Seeing people as special and valuable	Challenge Card 31: Tell somebody why you think they are special.
Being grateful	How powerful are our words? Importance of saying thank you Challenge Card 8: If someone does something for you, make sure you say thank you.
Kindness is important	How important is kindness? Challenge Card 28: Help someone who has fallen over.
Cooperation Working together	Is the world a better place when we cooperate? Helping people around us Challenge Card 34: Look after someone else today.
Sharing	How important is it to share? Challenge Card 19: Share your best joke today.
Patience	How patient are you to keep on trying? Challenge Card 33: Be brave today. Do something that you found hard last time you tried

ASSEMBLIES

Each assembly includes ideas for a game, an object lesson or illustration, a summary message and a closing thought or prayer. Select as many of these elements as you wish to create an assembly or act of collective worship suitable for your school community.

Extra recommendations:

Make space during each assembly for pupils to **share stories of being generous** – to inspire and to encourage even more generosity!

Consider a **40acts 'theme' song** for the pupils to sing as a regular part of collective worship. 'The Way That You See' by BIG Ministries is a fantastic worship song about learning to see the world God's way and acting accordingly.

www.bigministries.co.uk/resources/product/welcome-to-the-big-academy

Throughout the project, **collect pictures and record vox pops**/talking heads with the children about their experiences. Use these in the final celebration assembly.

RE MATERIAL/CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

The 40acts generosity project was inspired by the life and example of Jesus Christ. We've created a series of RE lessons for Key Stages 1 and 2 which will help your pupils to learn about what, or rather who, inspires generosity within the Christian faith, as they get generous themselves.

Lesson for years 1 and 2

Key Question: How does a Bible story help us to think about being generous (sharing)?

Lesson for years 3 and 4

Key Question: What do Jesus' sayings and actions teach Christians about generosity?

Lesson for years 5 and 6

Key Question: How do some people try to live out the value of generosity and why?

GET CREATIVE – SOME OTHER IDEAS

Over the years, many schools have taken the campaign even further. These are some of the things they did:

- You can create a 'thank you' tree either as a model or a frieze and write thank you messages on paper leaves to tie on.
- You can use the tree idea for anything else: paying compliments, praise points, etc.
- Share a cake day – everyone makes cakes and brings in to share.
- Kindness angels – everyone becomes one and leaves presents, notes or compliments hidden for others.
- Generosity corner/Lent corner in the classroom.
- Get crafty creating art and other objects out of other recycled materials.
- Prayer wall – sticking Post-it notes up on a wall.

Have fun paying it forward!

40acts is a national campaign from Stewardship. To find out more go to www.40acts.org.uk.

The assemblies and lesson materials have been written by Faith in Schools, a local mission partner of Scripture Union.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

About the authors

Rachel Carron has been a primary school teacher for 12 years. She lives in Luton and is an active member of Stopsley Baptist Church, where she is part of the preaching and worship team. Rachel created the first 40acts schools pack and had the brilliant idea of the class Challenge Cards, which form the basis of our schools resources.

Alice Probert is the Schools Team Leader for Faith in Schools, Newham, a small schools work charity based in East London. Previously Alice was a teacher from 1998 until she joined Faith in Schools. The charity supports local schools and churches to provide opportunities for children and young people to explore what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century. Teams of local Christians led by a schools worker go into primary and secondary schools to teach religious education lessons as well as run church visits for pupils.



Scripture Union

About Scripture Union

Scripture Union is a Christian charity, inviting children and young people to explore the difference Jesus can make to the challenges and adventures of life.

Through a wide range of activities and initiatives, we provide opportunities for young people to explore the Bible, respond to Jesus and grow in faith. Those who don't yet know Jesus are our number one priority.

About Stewardship

We help people give. Since 1906 Stewardship has provided advice, guidance, inspiration and practical tools to make it easy for people to give easily and tax effectively.

Stewardship giving accounts are currently used by over 25,000 people in the UK with more than £53 million distributed to charitable causes from Stewardship accounts every year. Over 19,000 registered churches, secular and Christian charities and full-time Christian workers are currently supported with Stewardship.

Stewardship is a charity that helps people to give. If you would like to find out more about how we can help you to give then visit www.stewardship.org.uk/give or find us at www.facebook.com/stewardship or www.twitter.com/stewardshipnews



ASSEMBLY 1 WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SPECIAL AND VALUABLE?

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP OUTLINE / OUTCOMES

Choose from the following to create your own assembly or act of collective worship:

Big Question 1	What does it mean to be special and valuable?
Game 1 / 2	Guessing game – which object is the most valuable?
Message 1	How things look doesn't always tell us how valuable or special they are
Bible story / Big Question 2 Luke 19:1–10	Zacchaeus
Message 2 / Object lesson	Jesus sees Zacchaeus as valuable
Introduction to 40acts	Challenge Card 31: Tell somebody why you think they are special.
Closing prayer	Give pupils the option to pray or reflect

PRE-ASSEMBLY PREPARATION:

Place objects for the game on a table at the front of the hall and place a cloth over them. You need to choose four objects that range in money value, but the one that is the most valuable to you is going to be something that isn't really valuable in money terms, e.g. something that has sentimental value.

BIG QUESTION:

What does it mean to be special and valuable?

After welcome and introductions: a) pose the question 'What is the most expensive diamond ever sold in the world?' Answer: Look on the internet as this piece of information goes out of date quickly.

Or b) if you have a projector in the hall, you could have a picture of the most expensive diamond ever sold on display as children come into the hall, with the question 'What would you pay for this?' Once all the children are sat ready and you have introduced yourself and your big question, ask for some suggestions for a figure for the object, and reveal the answer.

GAME 1:

Ask for a volunteer to come up to the front and take the cloth and reveal your four objects. You might like to have standing signs numbered 1–4, so that the child can place no.1 by what they think is the most expensive item, down to no.4 for the least.

MESSAGE 1:

Talk about what different people think is valuable can be different, for example object no.4 is the least valuable in terms of money but to you it is really valuable, it is very special, and explain why.

BIBLE STORY:

Luke 19:1–10

Ask the children to look out for what Jesus thought was valuable or special. Using the Lion Storyteller Bible tell the story of Zacchaeus (pages 100–101).

MESSAGE 2:

Ask the children what Jesus saw as valuable in this story – take a few answers (hopefully a child will say Zacchaeus; if not you can introduce the answer). Tax collectors like Zacchaeus back in the time of Jesus weren't liked by anyone, as they took your money and weren't very honest. However Jesus sees past his job, or the outward appearance, and sees who Zacchaeus really could be. He sees him as special/valuable because he sees that God created him.

LINK TO 40ACTS:

If you have a projector display Challenge Card 31; if not read out the card. It asks if we can 'tell somebody why you think they are special'. Can we be more like Jesus and notice the good in others and, even more than that, help them to discover it?

CLOSING PRAYER:

I am going to say a Christian prayer now. You might like to join in in your mind or even make this prayer your own. If you don't want to pray, think about today's assembly and how you can make someone else feel special today.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us how to treat other people. Help us to see people more the way you see them, not just what we can see. Help us to have time for others and to hear your voice. Amen.



ASSEMBLY 2 HOW POWERFUL ARE OUR WORDS?

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP OUTLINE / OUTCOMES

Choose from the following to create your own assembly or act of collective worship:

Big Question 1	How powerful are our words?
Game 1 / 2	Ringling a bell
Message 1	Historical setting for the story
Bible story / Big Question 2	Healing of the 10 lepers
Luke 17:11–19	
Message 2 / Object lesson	Importance of saying thank you
Introduction to 40acts	Link to Challenge Card 8: If someone does something for you, make sure you say thank you.
Closing prayer	Give pupils the option to pray or reflect

PRE-ASSEMBLY PREPARATION:

You need to have a bell to ring at the start of your assembly. Have your main question displayed at the front of the hall using a projector or displayed on a piece of paper.

BIG QUESTION:

How powerful are our words?

Start by ringing a bell to get everyone’s attention, and then welcome everyone to the assembly and if the children do not know you introduce yourself.

MESSAGE 1:

Explain that today you are going to tell a story from Christians’ special book, the Bible. It is a story that is about lepers. Explain about leprosy and how people were secluded and shunned back then in Jesus’ time. They couldn’t live with family, or in a village, and were not allowed to run a business or touch anybody. They had to ring a bell before they went anywhere near people, so that they knew who was coming and could get out of their way. People brought them food and left it outside where they lived away from the town – a horrible disease.

BIBLE STORY:

Gospel of Luke 17:11–19

Read the Bible story from the Lion Storyteller Bible (pages 96–97), or from a children’s Bible, where Jesus heals 10 lepers and only one returns to say thank you.

MESSAGE 2:

One leper appreciated what Jesus did for him: he came back and said thank you. Are we good at appreciating, or saying thank you, for what we have or do we take and move on to the next thing like the other nine lepers did?

- Did someone make you breakfast this morning, or make you your packed lunch?
- Did someone wash and iron the clothes you are wearing?
- Has someone said something kind to you, offered to help you, or included you in their game or activity?

Taking time to appreciate is a great quality to grow in your life. It is amazing the difference we can make to others through our words. That one person taking the time to say 'thank you' made a huge difference to Jesus I am sure. Your words are powerful, and can build up and encourage people or put them down. Let's use our words generously today.

LINK TO 40ACTS:

Challenge Card 8 tells us to say thank you to someone. What could you do today to show appreciation for someone? Could you say thank you?

CLOSING PRAYER:

I am going to say a Christian prayer now. You might like to join in in your mind or even make this prayer your own. If you don't want to pray, think about today's assembly and how you can make someone else feel special today through the power of your words.

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us how to treat other people. Thank you that you have given us a voice; help us to use it for good. Help us to notice today someone we could compliment. Amen.



ASSEMBLY 3 HOW IMPORTANT IS KINDNESS?

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP OUTLINE / OUTCOMES

Choose from the following to create your own assembly or act of collective worship:

Big Question 1	How important is kindness?
Message 1	Why kindness is important to me
Bible story / Big Question 2 Luke 10:25 - 37	The Good Samaritan via an active poem
Message 2 / Object lesson	The importance of kindness in the world
Introduction to 40acts	Challenge Card 28: Help someone who has fallen over.
Closing prayer	Give pupils the option to pray or reflect

BIG QUESTION:

How important is kindness?

Have the question on display in the hall or classroom for the children to think about before you start the assembly.

Good morning everyone. I wonder how important you think kindness is. Can you show me with your hands? Place them at your waist line for important, up by your chest for very important, by your head for extremely important and above your head for the most important thing. Let the children show you.

MESSAGE 1:

Kindness is great; I love it when people show me kindness, I love it when I see people being kind to others, and I feel better inside when I have been kind to someone. Now today I want your help to tell a story. It is a very old story, from Christians' special book called the Bible.

In the school they may have a reward system of stars of the week – rewarding effort to the best person weekly in each class. Use these pupils as your helpers for deciding the action/noise for each couplet of the poem, or choose some volunteers some other way.

BIBLE STORY:

Luke 10:25 – 37 The Good Samaritan

See the poem below adapted from a poem written by Lesley Pollard.

The way this activity works with children is that you read out two lines from the poem, and ask the pupils to decide what action or noise they will all make at the end of the two lines. For example, for 'Once a man travelled alone / From Jerusalem to Jericho' the children might use their fingers as legs and walk them on their hand or a table, or they might make a walking noise, or make a walking noise with their feet. You carry on letting one or two of the chosen pupils who are with you up at the front make the decision for each couplet. When all the rhyming couplets have been decided, you then read the poem (with a performance voice) and the chosen pupils at the front lead the

actions, with the rest of the pupils present joining in, seeing if they can remember all the actions.

Now can our volunteers help me, up here? I am going to say some words to you and I want you to think of an action or sound we can all make together. Can you do that? Yes? Great!

Now I have a challenge – can we all perform this story together? Can our volunteers help lead us in this? Read the poem, and children all join in.

ACTION NARRATION POEM: THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Once a man travelled alone,
From Jerusalem to Jericho.

Robbers lurked along this road,
Ready to steal anyone's load.

They pounced upon this poor man,
Beat him, stole from him, then away they ran.

A priest came by, dressed so fine,
'I would help, but just haven't got the time.'

A Pharisee next passed nervously by,
'I would help, but I'm scared!' he cried.

The wounded man thought the end was near,
Then the cloppity clop of hooves did he hear.

A Samaritan approached the man,
Tended his wounds, gave him a hand.

Took him by donkey to an inn to rest,
Bought food, drink and a brand new vest.

I have no money declared the man,
'It's all paid for,' said the Samaritan!

MESSAGE 2:

Jesus told this story to answer the questions 'Who is my neighbour?' and 'Who should I help?' I wonder what do you think the answer to the question is – who should you be kind towards? I believe that Jesus was teaching people that everyone is someone we should help and be kind towards. So today who could you be kind to in words, or actions?

LINK TO 40ACTS:

Challenge Card 28 says 'Help someone who has fallen over' – can we show kindness today to someone else? Let's have a moment to think about how we could help someone today.

CLOSING PRAYER:

I am going to say a Christian prayer now. You might like to join in in your mind or even make this prayer your own. If you don't want to pray, think about today's assembly and how you can make someone else feel special today.

Father God, please can you help me today to notice when someone needs help? Help me to practise being kind. Amen.



ASSEMBLY 4 IS THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE WHEN WE COOPERATE?

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP OUTLINE / OUTCOMES

Choose from the following to create your own assembly or act of collective worship:

Big Question 1	Is the world a better place when we cooperate?
Starter/ Game	What does cooperation mean?
Message 1	Does cooperation have the best results?
Bible story / Big Question 2 Mark 2:1–5, 11–12	Healing of the paralysed man
Message 2 / Object lesson	Helping people around us
Introduction to 40acts	Challenge Card 34: Look after someone else today.
Closing prayer	Give pupils the option to pray or reflect

PRE-ASSEMBLY PREPARATION:

You need two mini white boards, two pens, two blindfolds and a selection of pictures that can easily be described such as a beach scene, a street, a garden, a classroom, etc. You also need four little presents or thank yous for your volunteers.

BIG QUESTION:

Is the world a better place when we cooperate?

Have the question displayed from a projector or displayed on paper for all the pupils to see.

STARTER:

Welcome the pupils to today’s assembly and ask the question ‘What does cooperation mean?’ Take three definitions from the pupils and explain further the answer if needed. (Oxford English Dictionary gives the definition as ‘the action or process of working together to the same end’.)

Ask for your four volunteers. Blindfold two of the pupils and give them a board to draw on and a pen to draw with. Give the other two pupils the picture they need to describe to their blindfolded partner. Tell them they can help the first pupil to draw the picture through explanations. Ensure they know it is a competition, with the winning team the one who makes the best version of the picture. Give them one minute to create the masterpiece. When the time is up, ask the pupils who were blindfolded to look at their picture and see how close it is to the original. Maybe ask the headteacher to judge which is best. Ask the pupils to give everyone a round of applause.

MESSAGE 1:

Interview the pupils and ask them what made the task hard or easy. Draw out their points and link back to the idea of cooperation, that human beings work better when we cooperate. Ask the children to sit down, and give them their little thank you present.

BIBLE STORY:

Mark 2:1–5, 11–12 – Healing of the paralysed man

Read the story of the healing of the paralysed man; if you have a projector display a picture to illustrate the story. Pages 72–73 from the Lion Storyteller Bible have a nice version of this story for reading out.

MESSAGE 2:

I love this story because it took this man's friends to cooperate to do something for their friend: they needed to get him to Jesus. They had the same end, they wanted their friend better and they had heard that there was someone in their town who could help. They worked together; they co-operated to get their friend to Jesus.

Relate back to the game activity: what was it like to have help?

I wonder how easy you find it to cooperate with others? It takes lots of skills, being a good listener, being an encourager, helping others, but these skills are great ones to grow now as children and later as adults.

LINK TO 40ACTS:

Link the story to Challenge Card 34: Look after someone else today. How could you do this today?

CLOSING PRAYER:

I am going to say a Christian prayer now. You might like to join in in your mind or even make this prayer your own. If you don't want to pray, think about today's assembly and how you can help someone today.

Father God, we pray for a spirit of cooperation and eagerness to contribute to the needs of everyone in our lives, so that our lives are built with love, care, and teamwork. Therefore, we go out today in unity and purpose as we do our part in building each other up in all the different natural gifts and skills you have given us. Amen.



ASSEMBLY 5 HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO SHARE?

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP OUTLINE / OUTCOMES

Choose from the following to create your own assembly or act of collective worship:

Big Question 1	How important is it to share?
Game 1 / 2	Which is the best joke, game?
Message 1	Why smiling and laughing is good for us
Bible story / Big Question 2	Luke Chapter 9:10–17
Message 2 / Object lesson	How important is it to share?
Introduction to 40acts	Challenge Card 19: Share your best joke today.
Closing prayer	Give pupils the option to pray or reflect

PRE-ASSEMBLY PREPARATION:

You need to get two teams of three pupils on each side. Give them each a printed sheet with a choice of three or four jokes on it – see some examples at the end of this sheet.

BIG QUESTION:

How important is it to share?

Have the question displayed for the pupils to consider as they enter the hall. Greet the children and ask for some volunteers. Choose four pupils.

GAME 1:

Divide the pupils into two teams, and ask the pupils on each team to decide which is the best joke to tell from the sheet you give them. As the pupils in the teams do this, talk to the rest of the pupils in the hall about what sharing means – take answers from a few of the pupils.

Pupils from team one tell their best joke, and then team two have a go. Ask the pupils in the hall to clap for the team they thought told the better joke.

MESSAGE 1:

Sharing a joke is a great thing to do. Smiling and laughing release endorphins that help us to feel better. People who smile and laugh each day live up to 10 years longer than anyone else.

BIBLE STORY:

Luke 9:10–17

Read the story from the Bible or from the Lion Storyteller Bible – The Marvellous Picnic, pages 78–79.

MESSAGE 2:

This story wouldn't have happened without the little boy who was willing to share his five small loaves and two small fish. For people who believe in God an important idea is to give to God all that we have, to share everything with him and others. God can do amazing things with someone who is willing to share. There were 5,000 people fed because the little boy shared his food. I expect he was hungry and could have kept his food just for himself, but fortunately he was moved by the needs of others, not just himself.

I would like you to think about when was the last time you shared your food with others. When was the last time you shared a toy or invited someone new to play a game with you? Hopefully you can think of lots of examples from this week as you have been thinking about this word.

LINK TO 4OACTS:

Link sharing to today's challenge: share your best joke today. So our challenge today is to share a joke with someone and make them laugh.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Let's have a moment of quiet, and maybe you would like to ask God to use something you would like to share with others, so he can grow it and do good with it. Or you could use the time to think about what you can do to share with someone today.

POTENTIAL JOKES TO CHOOSE FROM**Team 1 jokes:**

Q: What goes 'Ha-ha-ha-ha!, thud!!!' and keeps laughing?

A: A monster laughing its head off!

Q: Where do sheep go to get their hair cut?

A: To the baa-baa shop!

Q: Why are leopards so bad at playing hide and seek?

A: Because they're always spotted!

Team 2 jokes:

Q: Why did the banana go to the doctor?

A: Because he was not peeling well!

Q: What kind of keys can't open locks?

A: Monkeys!

Q: What do cows like to listen to on their headphones?

A: MOOsic of course!



ASSEMBLY 6 HOW PATIENT ARE YOU TO KEEP ON TRYING?

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP OUTLINE / OUTCOMES

Choose from the following to create your own assembly or act of collective worship:

Big Question 1	How patient are you to keep on trying?
Game 1 / 2	How many clothes can you wear?
Message 1	Leonardo da Vinci's patience
Bible story / Big Question 2	Proverbs 14:29
Message 2 / Object lesson	The importance of being patient
Introduction to 40acts	Challenge Card 33: Be brave today. Do something that you found hard last time you tried.
Closing prayer	Give pupils the option to pray or reflect

PRE-ASSEMBLY PREPARATION:

You need a big bag of clothes that a pupil can try and wear: tops, trousers, skirts, hats, coats, gloves and hats.

You will need the power point slides on Leonardo da Vinci, these can be found in extra resources.

BIG QUESTION:

Have the question 'Is "to keep trying" the most important thing?' displayed for all the pupils to see as they enter the hall.

GAME 1:

Good morning everyone. I need a helper who can count – who is a good counter? Then I need a volunteer who is up for a challenge. (Get someone to come out and count how many clothes the other pupil can put on; whilst they do this use the projector and display the PowerPoint pictures.)

MESSAGE 1:

Is 'to keep trying' the most important thing? What do you think – do you need patience to do hard and brave things?

Show Slide 1

Leonardo da Vinci lived about 500 years ago, which is a long time ago! For four years of his life, every day he went to work at a very big church in Italy. Leonardo was a painter and he got a job to paint the inside of a church. Can you imagine painting every day for 1,460 days in a row (that's about four years)? Now this job wasn't any ordinary painting job; Leonardo wanted this to be a very special church that would honour God through the gift he felt God had given him.

Show Slide 2

Here is part of the inside of the church. Can you see there are lots of pictures on the walls of the church? Leonardo painted scenes from Bible stories, like the story of Noah, the creation of the world and the day of judgement. There was a lot of painting to do. I wonder how he painted all those walls.

Show Slide 3

He made his own scaffolding and stilts to paint from for the four years it took him to paint the chapel. I wonder how many of you would have had the staying power to keep going back each day and keep on painting in hard conditions.

Show Slide 4

This is probably one of the most famous sections of the church. It is a painting of God touching Adam and giving him life. Leonardo da Vinci said being patient is important as it protects us.

Well, have you noticed during all of this information my volunteers have been counting – patiently watching and counting – the number of clothes ‘x’ is wearing?

BIBLE STORY:

Proverbs 14:29

The Bible tells us ‘Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly.’ Patience is a valuable thing.

MESSAGE 2:

Leonardo was a patient man, he had to be patient. He said patience was good to grow in our lives. He says that just as more clothes protect us from the cold, growing in patience in our lives protects us from the tough times.

‘Patience serves as a protection against wrongs as clothes do against cold. For if you put on more clothes as the cold increases, it will have no power to hurt you. So in like manner you must grow in patience when you meet with great wrongs, and they will then be powerless to vex your mind.’

Leonardo da Vinci.

I wonder how good you are at having another go – that’s what patience is really. Show me through your thumbs (up for easy, down for hard).

LINK TO 40ACTS:

Challenge Card 33: Be brave today. Do something that you found hard last time you tried. So our challenge today is to be brave and have a go.

CLOSING PRAYER:

I am going to say a prayer to God because I know I need to grow in patience. If you want to pray along with me you can do; if you want you can think about how you could show patience today at school.

Dear God, please help me to grow in patience today. Amen.