

# Collective Worship

## Secondary Assemblies Day 2

# Freedom Week SECONDARY

### Just Enough UK and The Clewer Initiative

#### Aims:

- Look at a story where someone was selfless
- Look at a story of someone who's greed lead to them breaking the law
- Consider an example of modern slavery in the UK
- Remember that human life is more important than money.
- To understand that the best way to be rich is to use your money wisely.

#### Collective Worship:

#### Starting Story:

This is the story of Javier Amos. He is 9. He was just a child, battling Leukemia in the USA. He was contacted by the Make-A-Wish Foundation to ask what he wanted to do or who he wanted to meet. I want you to all take a second to think what you may ask for if you were contacted by 'Make-A-Wish'.

Would it be a holiday, to travel around the world? Would it be to meet your idol, or have a party with the stars?

Javier was offered anything he could dream of. He thought long and hard about it, and in September 2018 he arrived at school like any other day. There was something different about today. He had asked to arrive in a police car, and when he got to school all his classmates gathered around him and they were dressed up.

Javier had asked for a party for him and his schoolmates. They enjoyed pizza, inflatable castles, lazer tag and soft drinks all day.

He could have only thought of himself, or what he wanted. How many of you sat here today, instantly thought about what you wanted alone? Probably many of us, which is not something to be ashamed of, however, sometimes we have to also try to remember to think of others, and their needs and wants as well as our own.

If someone told you, tomorrow you could earn £5000 for a day's work, what would you say? Would it be a simple yes? Or would you instantly



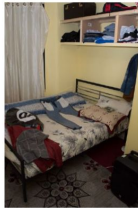
Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

~ 1 Peter 3:8



Life is not measured by how much you own

~ Luke 12:15



ask 'how?'

As humans we often want the maximum amount, for the minimum effort. That is just good business...right? The lower your outgoings, the higher your income.

Yet, if someone told you in order to make that money you would be torturing, abusing and enslaving people to do it... you wouldn't want that anymore.

Because human life is not less important than money or profit. Luke says it best. When a man asked Jesus to convince his brother to share an inheritance, he said:

'Life is not measured by how much you own' Luke 12:15.

Modern day slavery is driven by greed.

Often, greed opens the door to other sins and we find ourselves falling farther from God and what He has for our lives. We must be careful to protect our hearts and minds against greed and to practice being happy with what we have. Not only to live being satisfied and thankful for what God has given to us and also give to others!

The value of money is not in its possession, but it is in its use. Those who are held in modern slavery are held by those who do not care about how they treat other people. Instead they will cause pain, abuse and exploitation to get the profit they want.

This man lived in London. Modern slavery happens everywhere in the UK. This man brought people over from Romania, preying on the fact that they wanted a good job, and a better life for their families.

When the men arrived in the UK they were made to sleep in very dirty conditions. There were 15 men living in the same house. The 'Boss' 'employed' them in the demolition business. They worked long hours every day and after one month they had still not received any money for their work. When they confronted the 'Boss', he gave them £50 each for their work to cover the whole month. They were only allowed out of the house two at a time, and warned they would be arrested by police if they were discovered.

The men were confused, this wasn't how it was meant to be! They knew they were working hard and working well, and they were not being rewarded for their work. David Davies, of the London CPS Complex Casework Unit, said: "Although these victims were not physically restrained, once Lupu had taken their IDs away, they were controlled and intimidated with violence, threats and the false hope they would eventually be paid."

Not only did David Lupu threaten and subject the workers to poor conditions, he also took their identity documents. He then charged them extortionate amounts to live in the squalid house he had for them, and charged them more money as 'compensation' to him for getting them a job in the first place, (and flights to the UK).

The men still knew this was not right and saw their opportunity when David went on holiday for a week. Three of the men went straight to the police and explained what was going on. The police rescued them and the others and arrested their boss. He has now been sentenced to jail for seven years.

What was the motivating factor behind David Lupu doing this? Money.

The court proclaimed that he was making very good money. The income from the demolition business was plentiful. This meant that, had he paid the workers a fair wage, he would have still made a very large profit. Yet, he didn't feel like he would ever have enough.

Men and women like David Lupu use power and control to take over the victims lives. As we walk out of this assembly I want you to all think about who you would rather be.

- a) Someone who thinks of others, prospers and contributes to this world in a positive manner.
- b) A person who subjects many individuals to a life barely worth living, in order to earn a little bit more money, breaking the law, contributing to one of the largest crimes in modern times.

It's an easy choice. I hope you all make the right one.

I also hope that many more people make the right choice to pay a fair wage and stop modern slavery in the UK and across the whole world.

Remember this verse:

And the Lord says, "What sorrow awaits Jehoiakim,  
Who builds his palace with forced labor.  
He builds injustice into its walls,  
For he makes his neighbors work for nothing.  
He does not pay them for their labor.

~ Jeremiah 22:13

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As you leave today, before we say the prayer. I want you to think about this statement: 'Who succeeds if you succeed?'

'Who wins in life if you are safe, sound, not exploited and not treated badly?'

*(ask the pupils for a few answers)*

The simple answer?  
All of us.



## Freedom Prayer

### Voice 1

On this holy ground of worship  
In this sacred place of prayer  
We have heard the voice of freedom  
Crying 'Let my people go.'

### All

Father/God of freedom,  
Who leads us into life,  
Deliver us from every evil:  
And make of us  
Deliverers of others.

Everyone will now recite the freedom prayer.

## Freedom Prayer

### Voice 2

Where chains restrain God's chosen children  
Where humans trade in kin and skin  
May our words pass on your promise  
Of a land where liberty is sweet

### All

Father/God of freedom,  
Who leads us into life,  
Deliver us from every evil:  
And make of us  
Deliverers of others.

## Freedom Prayer

### Voice 3

Give us faith to face the Pharaohs  
Who line their pockets from this plague  
Send us as salvation's sponsors  
Willing servants; slaves to love

### All

Father/God of freedom,  
Who leads us into life,  
Deliver us from every evil:  
And make of us  
Deliverers of others.

