

Freedom Week

Collective Worship 1



Collective Worship

Day 1

Greed and Slavery in History

Just Enough Group and the Clewer Initiative

Aim

Pupils will understand that greed is negative and that you should earn what you have, share and be kind to others.

Pupils will understand what slavery was in history, and how the transatlantic slave trade was influenced by greed and cruelty.

Preparation

Start by preparing a glass of water on a table at the front of the hall. This will be used to demonstrate greed.



Thoughtful Activity

Start the assembly by asking for two volunteers to come to the front. Give one of the children a full glass of water, and see what they do.

Explain to the assembly that the person without the water is extremely thirsty. (*child to act being thirsty*). Then explain that the person with water is not thirsty and has plenty of water that can be accessed at any time.

Ask the pupil with the water what should they do?

(The pupil will probably give the child who is thirsty the water, if not prompt the child by reminding them that they have access to more water.)

Ask the assembly the following questions:

- Why did they give/not give the water to the pupil in need?
- Is there any reason to not share the water?
- If the water had been kept, what would this be an example of? (Greed)

Remind pupils that if someone is near us and needs help that we should always try to be helpful.

ASK: If someone is far away does that mean the need is no longer there? (No). So, we have to be considerate of others especially when we have plenty.

Round of applause for the volunteers.



Collective Worship

Originally, when humanity began, societies used to work by everyone helping each other out, sharing resources and skills - everyone had a role. As time went on... what was used to 'buy' different skills? (Money). And if someone works, what were they given? (Pay).

(Mention that volunteers for charities are choosing to work for free, not forced.)

It was always expressed in the Bible that if someone worked they should be paid for it. If someone works really hard, isn't paid, is treated badly and doesn't chose to do the work they do, does anyone know what that is called? (Slavery).

Exactly, Slavery. Now, slavery happened throughout history, does anyone know about the Transatlantic Slave Trade?

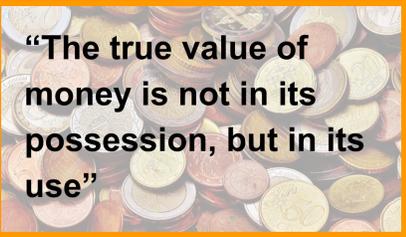
- The transatlantic slave trade was set up to transport people around the world against their will.

It started when farm owners needed workers on their farms. They would pay for someone to travel from Europe to America, and then they would work on the farm for maybe 6 or 7 years. The 'slaves' wouldn't be paid, but it was the understanding that it was their **choice** and after the 6 years they would be *free*. This caused the farmers a problem; they then had to spend more money to get more workers. They didn't want to spend that money, and they had heard about Africa, and how there were very good workers living there. If they took the workers from African countries and didn't let them leave, then they would be able to make a lot **more money** than before, and not have to pay for transportation.

Why didn't they chose the Europeans as slaves?

Because if they used Africans, they could be distinguished more easily if they had escaped due to the colour of their skin. They just wanted more **money**.

Take a moment to think about how you would feel if you were taken from your home... taken and made to work and have no control over your life anymore. All for someone who never had enough. The person you work for will never be happy and they always want *more*.



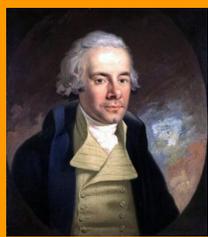
“The true value of money is not in its possession, but in its use”

Do we think that was right?

NO. To the slave owners, slavery was just a business decision. They didn't see the slaves as real humans.

So we know that this isn't right; but this was how slavery started, from people being greedy and wanting to make as much money as possible. People who hold others in slavery want something for nothing, and will treat people badly to do so.

'The true value of money is not in its possession, but in its use'



William Wilberforce

Many people realised that what was happening in the 1500's-1800's was not right. One of those people was called William Wilberforce. Now William was a politician and he campaigned for over 20 years in the UK to stop the transatlantic slave trade. Other people around the UK agreed with him and he got 280,000 signatures - which in the 1800's was *really great* considering there was no internet! In 1807, William Wilberforce banned the trading of slaves, and in 1833 slavery became completely illegal.

Was William Wilberforce greedy? (No). He wanted to help others, those that needed it. William knew he had something that they needed ... freedom. Do we remember the water? William had enough, but he still helped others. It is very important to remember that you can have money and not be greedy, but *everyone* has the responsibility to do good in the world.

How long do you think it would it take **to make slavery illegal around the whole world ?**

(if we all worked together)

Now although slavery was banned in 1807... there are still slaves in the world today. So let me ask you this question...

0 days! It's already illegal in every country

How long do you think it would take, if we all started working together today to make modern day slavery banned across the **WHOLE WORLD?**

Take some answers from the pupils.

It's already illegal! This is because slavery has been recognised as something that has no place in our world. We are all naturally good and we want to do what's right in the world. When it comes to slavery, people were and still are greedy and luckily we have moved into an age where slavery is illegal in every country in the world.



Unfortunately though, modern day slavery still exists today *illegally*....

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.

Time to recite together 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.