

Order of Service

**Education Week 2009
24 – 31 May**

**Theme: A love of learning
NSW Public Schools: *Leading the way***

An inter-denominational Christian service for optional use by schools and churches prepared for the NSW Department of Education and Training by members of the Director-General's Consultative Committee on Special Religious Education.



6. Student item/participation

7. Message /Talk

8. Song/s

10. Prayers

Student 1

Loving God, today we are celebrating public education. We ask you to bless all of the people who work in our school, especially our teachers, office staff, cleaners, canteen helpers and our parents too. Please help us to be responsible and show respect towards everybody in our school community. Help us to care for other students in our school. Amen

Student 2

Merciful God, we pray for students in NSW schools, that through all that we learn we will develop respect for the right of other people to have different beliefs, ideals and ways of doing things, within the laws of our country. We pray that we will act responsibly towards others, accepting each others right to be different and care for each other because of God's love for us. Amen.

Student 3

(An opportunity for prayers related to participating schools)

11 Closing

Jesus answered: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one. And it is, "Love others as much as you love yourself." (Matthew Chapter 22: verses 37 and 39, NIV).

ORDER OF SERVICE

1. Welcome

2. Song

3. Introduction

Public schools are committed to the best education for every student. Public schools are committed to teaching about our world, it's people and how we can live together in peace and harmony. The theme for Education Week 2009 is *A love of learning – NSW Public Schools: Leading the way*. An important part of teaching and learning in public schools is developing skills to challenge stereotypes and myths, and to make positive changes which will benefit ourselves and those around us. Students are encouraged to strive for their best, to accept challenges, and reach new levels of achievement.

The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, who was his young helper, encouraging him to live a life consistent with God's teaching. Listen to what he has to say:

This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance...that we put our hope in the living God, who is the saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love and in purity...Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save yourself and your hearers. 1 Timothy Chapter 4: verses 9-12, 16 (NIV)

Timothy was a young person. Some people thought he was not old enough to have experiences to understand what Paul was talking about. Paul wanted Timothy to stand firm on what he knew to be true. He wanted Timothy to live the kind of life he had taught him to live. Paul wanted Timothy to be a leader who would lead other people in God's Way so that others would also learn to trust in Jesus Christ.

Students, as young adults, can act responsibly and kindly towards others who are different. You can set an example to others showing kindness and respect, and reach out to those who are different and disliked. In Luke Chapter 10 we have an example of Jesus teaching how important it is to reach out to others and show them love and kindness.

4. Opening Prayer

Loving God, we pray today that we can learn more about your Son Jesus as we read the Bible and hear about how much you love us all. Give us new insights into what it means to love our neighbour and care for others, and especially those who have different ways of thinking, behaving and speaking. Help us to learn to love as Jesus does. Amen

5. Bible Reading

A theme running through Luke's gospel is Jesus' compassion for the Gentiles, Samaritans, women, children, tax collectors and others who were marginalised by society. There are many examples of Jesus teaching through stories. One of these is known as the Good Samaritan. The Samaritans were a group of people who were different and sometimes despised and hated by other people.

Jesus tells this story in response to the question "Who is my neighbour?"

Listen to what He has to say.

Luke Chapter 10: verses 30 - 37 (NIV)

³⁰In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."