

SUGGESTIONS FOR USING THE ORDER OF SERVICE

For many years the NSW Department of Education and Training has provided a Christian Order of Service for use by schools and churches to celebrate Education Week. This is consistent with the policy on Religious Education as set on the Department's web site at <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/curriculum/schools/index.shtml> and in the Special Religious Education section of the Curriculum Directorate website at <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au>, choosing *Curriculum Related Policies* and *Religious Education*.

This is a generic form of service that is suitable in inter-denominational Christian contexts. It can be used by:

- schools as part of General Religious Education within the curriculum or at an assembly
- teachers of Special Religious Education as part of their regular lessons or assemblies
- Christian churches where it may be adapted or creatively expanded as a special service or to fit into regular church services.

Should the school wish to conduct a multi-faith celebration, reference should be made to religious education policy referenced above.

Schools are required to notify parents of any Education Week religious service and the right of parents to withdraw their children from any religious education is to be respected. If this activity is part of Special Religious Education, existing parent nominations of non-SRE are to be respected.

When used in schools, the Order of Service may be adapted to match school practices and special assemblies. It is designed to allow active participation in ways that suit the age and skills of students. In planning the Order of Service, it is important to take into account the time available.

The Order of Service is designed to be used creatively. To assist you, the following suggestions are made:

1. ORDER OF SERVICE MESSAGE/TALK

The following ideas and suggestions are offered for a talk or message linked with the theme for Education Week *A love of learning: NSW Public Schools - Leading the way* and with the core values of NSW Public Schools. This year's service highlights respect, responsibility, care and fairness.

It may be appropriate to develop a different outline of the talk that is sensitive to your local situation.

This is the NIV version of the first bible reading for the Order of Service Younger Students, should you wish to use it:

⁹*This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance* ¹⁰*(and for this we labour and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.* ¹¹*Command and teach these things.* ¹²*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, in faith and in purity.*

¹⁶*Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

(1 Timothy Chapter 4: verses 9-12, 16 NIV)

Some considerations in exploring the story

- Jesus tells stories in the gospels to teach others and lead the way
- He teaches this parable in response to a question posed by a religious leader
- The message conveyed is that this was a response to a need – a person was in need
- Someone stopped doing what they were doing to help
- This account begins from verse 29 of the Gospel of Luke, chapter 10, where Jesus was asked a question and he responds with a story as part of the answer
- The teaching is based on the great commandment in verse 27. Jesus then leaves us all with a challenge to act upon in verse 37

Some questions for interaction with students

- Who is your neighbour?
- Think of a time when you have helped someone, or have seen someone help another person
- How can you help your neighbours?
- What did the Good Samaritan give?
- Find examples of good neighbours in the media
- What would your answer be to Jesus if he asked you the question in verse 36?

Some applications to consider and explore in the Message/talk

- Who are seen as neighbours in our community?
- How might you show ways of helping your neighbours?
- Is looking after your neighbour important in today's world?
- Is it hard to be a neighbour to others?
- How did Jesus show us to be a good neighbour?

2. SUGGESTED WAYS OF USING THIS ORDER OF SERVICE

The Order of Service can be used in any of the following ways:

- As a basis for a school assembly
- A combined SRE activity by Christian groups
- A basis for churches to conduct Education Week services involving representatives from the local public schools