



Act of collective worship for 'Share a Pencil' day

You will need:

- Share a Pencil Day PowerPoint presentation from Hope
- Music to enter and leave: Beauty for Brokenness by Graham Kendrick
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kVHKuldZyw> or God of Justice by Tim Hughes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nnqOI4mVKc>
- Focus: Place a candle (matches), 2 pencils, 9 pieces of A4 paper and a Bible on the worship table

Gathering Light a candle to show that worship has begun

Slide 2

The Lord is here

His spirit is with us

*As we gather we thank you for all that You have given us, We
thank you for this school,
For all who work and learn here,
Help us to listen today as we hear about the challenges of learning in other parts of the world.*

Amen

Engaging

Show the children a 'Share a Pencil Day' pencil, ask them:
I wonder how this helps us in school / how we use this to help our learning in school?

Take responses from the children and perhaps adults in the room e.g. draw pictures/ write down questions or ideas/ create a mind map/ make notes to help us remember things.

Slide 3 Read the story of The Pencil Parable from Coelho, P., *Like the Flowing River* (Harper Collins publishers 2007) (show PowerPoint)

*A boy was watching his grandmother write a letter. At one point he asked:
'Are you writing a story about what we've done? Is it a story about me?' His
grandmother stopped writing her letter and said to her grandson:
I am writing about you, actually, but more important than the words is the pencil I'm using.
I hope you will be like this pencil when you grow up.'*

*Intrigued, the boy looked at the pencil. It didn't seem very special.
'But it's just like any other pencil I've ever seen!'
'That depends on how you look at things.
It has five qualities which will make you a person who is always at peace with the world.'*

*'The First quality: you are capable of great things, but you must never forget that there is a hand guiding your steps.
We call that hand God, and He always guides us according to His will.'*

'The Second quality: now and then, I have to stop writing and use a sharpener. That makes the pencil suffer a little, but afterwards, he's much sharper. So, you, too, must learn to bear certain pains and sorrows, because they will make you a better person.'

'The Third quality: using a pencil always allows us the chance to use an eraser to rub out any mistakes. This means that correcting something we did is not necessarily a bad thing; it helps to keep us on the road to justice.'

The fourth quality: what really matters in a pencil is not its wooden exterior, but the graphite inside. So always pay attention to what is happening inside you'

'Finally, the pencil's fifth quality: it always leaves a mark. in just the same way, you should know that everything you do in life will leave a mark, so try to be conscious of that in your every action'

Ask for 8 volunteers (pick children you know can read and write). Split them into a single child and a group of 7, give each set a pencil. Ask both groups to write out *defend the rights of the poor and needy* proverbs 31:9 but the group of 7 have to share the pencil and write one word at a time.

Slide 4 *Today some / all of us are taking part in the National Share a Pencil Day organised by Hope – education for a brighter future. Hope is an enterprise charity that supports education projects around the world.*

Slide 5 or 6 *Millions' of children around the world have no access to education and cannot go to school. For those that can, many lack the resources they need for learning. Children have to share books, rulers, pens and pencils. Many schools do not have enough qualified teachers or schools might be a very long walk from where children live.*

Slide 7 *There are many reasons why access to schooling is difficult or challenging but the most common are war, natural disasters or extreme poverty. On slide three take the opportunity to add a photo or fact about conflict or disaster in your link/companion diocese that means children there can't access education. Ask your Diocesan RE Adviser or Youth Work Adviser for ideas/photos.*

Slide 8 *Share a Pencil Day is a day on which we can learn a little about these issues. Why children cannot get the schooling they deserve and what difference it would make if they could. It is a day to reflect and be grateful that we are able to go to school. Christians believe God asks them to love one another, to live justly and to speak up for those that cannot speak up for themselves. Christians believe that Jesus showed how to do this by the way He lived on earth and in what He taught.*

Bible Reading

Ask the children: *I wonder where we can find out how Jesus wants us to live?*

From the Bible and read the following passage.

Slide 9 | John 3:17-18 ESV

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Responding

Choose from one of the following, as you introduce the song pick out one of the meaningful lines that relates to the theme of the collective worship or explain why you have chosen it

The following songs are on www.worshipworkshop.org.uk

- Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
- Here I am Lord
- I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mXMQqiLW9c>
- Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYYq6dCBm24>
- Longing for Light We Sit in Darkness <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrCqNW6jDYk>

If you don't have a tradition of singing in your school show a video of one of the songs and ask the children to listen to the words.

What we are going to do today?

Slide 10 Optional if Time allows

School is a chance not only to learn to read and write, to master your maths, science and languages. School is a chance to make friends, a chance to play with one another and participate in sport, a chance to learn musical instruments as well as doing arts and craft. School is where we learn to interact and work in groups as well as on our own. School is where we prepare for life as a grown up, choose what we want to be in life and a launch pad from which we can follow our dreams.

Slide 11 Optional as time allows

While those are your dreams children around the world dream of the chance to go to school. Those lucky enough to go sometimes have to walk for hours to get there every day. Many sacrifices are made around the world so children can access an education, we need to help but before that we need to understand the problems children face so we can do our bit. Education is the single most important thing a child can have to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Slide 12 As part of Share a Pencil Day you may be taking part in a lesson about equality for boys and girls in education, or about education for refugee children on the move or about why it is so important girls get an education.

Slide 13 During that lesson today you will be asked to Share one Pencil between two pupils. This is so everyone can try to better understand what it's like not to have all the things in the classroom that we take for granted.

Children around the world have to share every day. Just for today we are going to see how that feels.



Slide 14 replace the slide on the Share a Pencil PowerPoint with this picture or a similar and the quote from Matthew 25

During the share a pencil lesson we'd also like you to think about why Christians would think it is important to know about these things and to try and make a difference to them. Remember the song we sang/listened to and the bible reading we shared

Prayers

(you could say the following if appropriate: if you would like to make this your prayer say Amen at the end after me)

*Lord we thank you for our school and everybody who learns and works in it.
Be with us today as we learn about what it's like for children who can't get to school and about schools where they have to share. Help us to listen carefully and to use the gifts You have given us so we can try to imagine what it might be like for other children around the world. Give us hope that the world can change and all children can have an opportunity to go to school. Help us not to forget what we have and to be able to share with others.*

Amen

Sending

In order to change things in the world and live as God wants us to, we have to find out what that might look and feel like. We need to explore what might need changing so that we can make life here on earth more like the way God wants it to be for everyone. Today is about doing just that.

Christians believe that every child has an equal right to education because they are equal in the sight of God, loved equally by God, equally important to God.

Slide 15 *Enjoy Share a Pencil day,*

Play music used at the beginning of the collective worship