

Lent Assembly - Changing Lives in Cambodia



LEADER'S NOTES

This presentation lasts up to 20 minutes. We recommend you deliver the whole assembly **but please feel free to use the material as time and circumstances allow.**

This PowerPoint uses animations. It is advisable to run through the assembly before you present to your pupils.

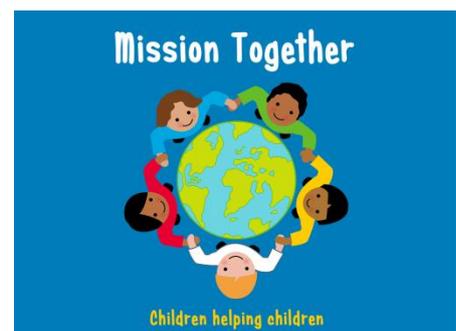
This assembly has been prepared by **Mission Together**, the Pope's official children's charity for overseas mission. **Mission Together** is the children's branch of **Missio**. 97% of money donated to **Mission Together** by children goes directly towards work with children. Although all projects are Church-backed, we follow Christ's example – helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief.

SLIDE ONE

Ask the children if they know what special event will happen in a few weeks' time (Easter). Ask if they know the name we give to the weeks leading up to Easter (Lent). Lent happens around the same time every year as the dark and cold days of winter slowly give way to the lighter and warmer days of spring.

Just like in spring when increased light and warmth cause new plants to grow, for Christians Lent is also a time of new beginnings. Christians are encouraged to prepare for Easter by thinking about how they could be more like Jesus. For example, if we are being mean to someone, in Lent we try to **change our behaviour** and be kind instead. If we've fallen out with someone, in Lent we try hard to **change the situation** through forgiving or asking for forgiveness.

In Lent we don't just try to change ourselves for the better, we have to try to make life better for others too.



Mission Together is a special charity that asks children to help change the lives of children living in poverty around the world through prayer and sharing. Mission Together asks all children to join together and show the world how much God loves us (*illustrated by our logo, seen on the slide*).

SLIDE TWO

In Lent, Christians make a special effort to spend more time doing three things that were important to Jesus. Can anyone explain what these three things are?

Click to reveal the following three words on screen.

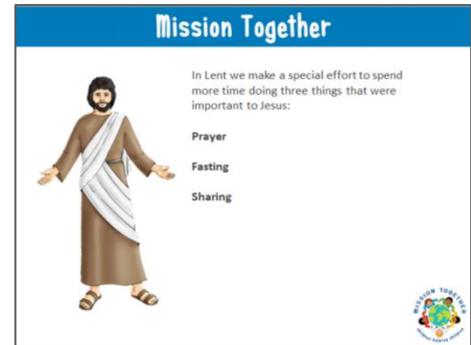
A: Prayer, fasting, and sharing what we have with others.

Fasting is an unusual word. Can anybody tell us what it means?

A: Giving up something.

People often 'fast' from things they enjoy in Lent, like chocolate or TV. Jesus didn't ask us to give up things because he was a spoilsport. He was trying to encourage us to live simply and to think not always about what we want, but what others might need.

So when we fast in Lent we are encouraged to spend the money or time we save not on things we want, but on what others need.



SLIDE THREE

Ask for ideas about what the children might give up, and how they could use the money or time saved to help others. The examples on screen of children, who have supported Mission Together, might help them come up with some ideas.

Top left – These children from Our Lady's Primary School, Doncaster, volunteer to help look after their school gardens. Thanks to them everyone can enjoy the beautiful plants and flowers.

Top right – These children live in the Philippines. They belong to a Mission Together club. They meet together to pray the mission rosary. Each time they do so they also give a little money to Mission Together to help other children around the world who need our prayers and support.

Bottom left – These children live in Sri Lanka. They belong to a Mission Together club. Every week they meet together to pray and, although they and their families have little money, they give a small coin worth 10 pence, which they put towards helping children around the world who have even less than they have.



Bottom right – This little girl is called Thia, for two weeks she gave up her free time to help clean her classroom then gave her sponsorship money to Mission Together.

All these are good news stories; they show us different ways children are sharing God’s love and helping to change the lives of other children in need.

Jesus also shared good news with others. For Jesus the Good News was that God loves each one of us deeply and that, if we love others as God wants us to, then we will create a world that is fair and forgiving, and where children are happy, healthy and safe.

Let’s hear Jesus’ words now.

Read the Gospel reading (Mark 1:13-15).

Jesus went into Galilee and told people the Good News from God. He said, “The time has come. God’s kingdom is very near. Change your hearts and lives, and believe the Good News!”

SLIDE FOUR

This is **Sister Eulie**. She is chosen to spend her life sharing the Good News of God’s love with the world.

**(The children might remember her from the Mission Together campaign in 2014/2015.)*

Sister Eulie is a Religious Sister. She left her family and friends to live in a community with other Sisters like her. They pray together and do what they can to help people.

Sister Eulie comes from the Philippines (A country to the East of Cambodia) and she travelled to Cambodia with some other Sisters, so that they can bring the Good News of God’s love to the people living there. Sister Eulie is a missionary.



SLIDE FIVE

When Sister Eulie arrived in Cambodia she saw how families could not afford to send their children to school. While their parents worked for very little money, their children were left alone, either locked in their homes or wandering the streets.

Sister Eulie wanted to help so, with support from **Mission Together** children around the world, she set up the **Lindalva Centre**.



This centre provides a safe place for children; here they are cared for, fed, and receive an education. In their classes the children learn English and Maths as well as Khmer, the language spoken in Cambodia.

SLIDE SIX

The Lindalva Centre has already **changed the lives** of hundreds of children, but there are many more children in the surrounding area who live **too far away** from the centre to get there.

These children are also left alone while their parents go out to work for very little money.

Sister Eulie decided something more needed to be done.



SLIDE SEVEN

So Sister Eulie and her sisters started the **mobile Tuk-Tuk Education Centre!**

A Tuk-tuk is a three-wheeled vehicle, a common means of transport in many countries in Asia. It is called a Tuk-tuk because of the sound the little engine makes as it trundles along the road. It is best known as an affordable taxi but Sister Eulie had the idea to use one as a school on wheels!



SLIDE EIGHT

The Tuk-tuk means that the Sisters can bring 'school' to those children who can't get to school themselves. It contains books, paper, posters and lots of **materials** to teach children English and Maths. As well as that, the children learn how to stay healthy, clean and safe.

A Sister and a locally-trained **teacher** take the vehicle to villages where they meet the local children and lessons can begin. The children in these villages look forward with excitement to the arrival of the Tuk-tuk and are happy to be able to **learn together**.



The mobile Tuk-tuk Education Centre is **more than just a school on wheels**. The Sisters also provide the children with **food**. Often the lunch they eat here will be their only meal of the day.

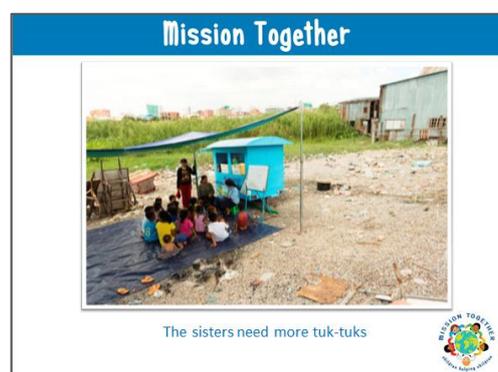
The Tuk-tuk also brings **educational toys** for the younger children, so that everyone can join in, even if they are not yet ready for school.

Sister Eulie is bringing the **Good News** of God's love to the children. The Sisters tell them that we are all God's children and that he loves us all very much. They also discover that there are **Mission Together** children around the world who care about them and who pray for them to be safe and happy. This is the **Good News** that Jesus spoke of in the reading we heard earlier.

SLIDE NINE

There are so many children to visit and the Sisters don't have enough resources to reach as many children as they would like. Some villages only receive a visit from the Tuk-tuk once a week. The Sisters need more teachers and Tuk-tuks to carry out their important work.

This Lent, let's help Sister Eulie and the children in Cambodia by **praying and sharing**. You can help by fundraising for **Mission Together** and praying that children everywhere receive an education.



SLIDE TEN

Let's end our assembly and start our Lenten actions now by saying together the **Mission Together** prayer for children like those living in Cambodia and around the world.

Mission Together Prayer:

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love.
Now and forever.
Amen



**For more information about the Lindalva Centre, please visit missiontogether.org.uk/Cambodia*