



RESOURCE PACK FOR SCHOOLS
FOR USE DURING LENT 2017

40ACTS 2017

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH TO SATURDAY 15 APRIL 2017

40acts.org.uk



INTRODUCTION TO 40ACTS SCHOOL PACK 2017

What is 40acts?

40acts is a generosity challenge which invites people to do Lent a bit differently.

During the forty days of Lent, 40acts participants will be invited to take part in forty simple acts of generosity which will challenge them to 'do Lent generously' in 2017.

Lent marks a pivotal point in the history of the church, when Jesus prepared to give himself up as a sacrifice.

Traditionally we mark Lent by giving something up, but what if it could be more than that? What if Lent was a preparation for a lifetime of big-heartedness?

Small acts of generosity, performed by thousands of people across the UK and beyond, have the power to make a big change to our communities, to our churches and ultimately, to our world.

Why run 40acts Together in schools?

The idea is simple: during the period of Lent, as a whole school, you give something back, not give something up.

There are loads of great reasons to run 40acts in your school. Taking time to reflect on the difference generosity can make in our own lives, as well as the lives of others, contributes to the spiritual, moral and character development of pupils. Following the RE material included here allows pupils to learn about religious beliefs and values in a way which is being out-worked within the school community. The project also supports the core British value of respect for others.



You will see on the challenge cards links to British Values 40acts is a brilliant way of showing OFSTED that your school is ticking that box. Remember that taking part in 40acts will contribute significantly to your SMSC agenda too.

Please assure your staff that this project does not necessarily have to be religiously focused, unless of course that is appropriate for your school. 40acts is simply a way to encourage staff and pupils to be more outward-looking and generous in their community.

What you'll need

This is the 40acts pack for your school. It includes Challenge Cards, two assembly outlines, with RE lesson material and additional multimedia resources.

If you would like more assembly outlines and lesson materials, there are six more different themes in our 2016 resource pack which is still available to download (both for KS1 and KS2).

Firstly, you'll need someone to co-ordinate the project. Presumably, since you're reading this, that's you!

Each class will need their own set of Challenge Cards. Print the challenges onto card, don't laminate them – it takes far too long! There are also some blank cards if you want to write your own challenges.

Each school day, beginning Wednesday 1st March, every class picks a Challenge Card at random and this becomes their challenge for that day.

How you want to go about selecting your act for the day is totally up to you. You may want to:

- Put the cards in a hat and pick one out each day.
- Work through them in order.
- Blindfold a child and play a daily game of "pin the challenge!"
- Use cards numbered 1-40 and pick one out each day to find its corresponding challenge on the wall chart.

Since it is individual to each class, it is fine if each class is doing something different. It can be really good fun to see if you can guess what a particular class's act for the day is.

The hope is that by day 41 (after Easter holidays) the children may still be asking what their act for the day is. If they do, don't discourage them! Keep it going!

Making the most of 40acts: Collective worship and RE material

We've created two new assemblies that can be used at the beginning and end of Lent. (more options are available in the 2016 pack) These will help the school community further unpack what it means to live generously. The assembly themes reflect those found on the Challenge Cards.

Theme	Learning objectives
The power of generosity	Introducing the idea of superpowers – things which are able to change people and situations. Introducing Zacchaeus – a case study in the impact of generosity. Pupils will explore why generosity is so powerful.
Generosity changes the world	Introducing the idea of world-changing gifts. Introducing the idea of Easter as an act of kindness that changed the world. Reflecting on the difference pupils' own acts of kindness have made over the last seven weeks.

Assemblies

Each assembly PDF includes ideas for a game, links to an original Bible film, an object lesson or illustration, a summary message and a closing thought or prayer. Select as many of these elements as you wish to create an assembly or act of collective worship suitable for your school community.

Extra recommendations:

- Make space during each assembly for pupils to share stories of being generous - to inspire and to encourage even more generosity!
- Consider a 40acts 'theme' song for the pupils to sing as a regular part of collective worship. 'The Way That You See' by BIG ministries is a fantastic worship song about learning to see the world God's way and acting accordingly.
- Throughout the project, collect pictures and record vox pops/talking heads with the children about their experience. Use these in the final celebration assembly.

RE material and classroom activities

The 40acts generosity project was inspired by the life and example of Jesus Christ. We've created a series of RE lessons which will allow your pupils to learn about what, or rather who, inspires generosity within the Christian faith, as they get generous themselves. These classroom activities have been written by teaching resource site, RE:quest (request.org.uk).

Get creative – some other ideas

Over the years, many schools have taken the campaign even further. These are some of the things they did:

- You can create a 'thank you' tree either as a model or a frieze and write thank yous on paper leaves to tie on.
- You can use the tree idea for anything else, paying compliments, praise points etc.
- Share a cake day, everyone makes cakes and brings into share.
- Kindness ninjas – everyone becomes one and leaves presents, notes, compliments hidden for others.
- Generosity corner/Lent corner in the classroom.
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- Get crafty creating art and other objects out of other recycled materials.
- Prayer wall, sticking post it notes up on a wall.

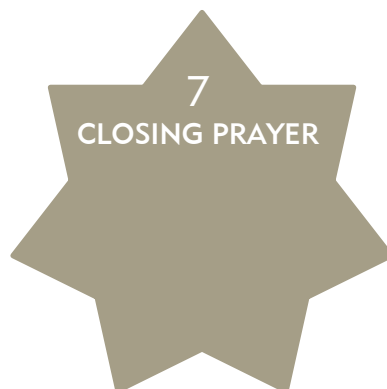
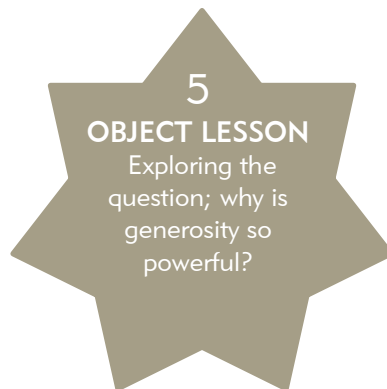
Have fun paying it forward!

40acts is a national campaign from Stewardship. To find out more go to www.40acts.org.uk.

WEEK 1 ASSEMBLY: THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP OBJECTIVES

Choose from the following to create your own assembly or act of collective worship:





BIG QUESTION

RESOURCES: PowerPoint slides: Slide 1
THINK: Display this big question as pupils enter: *If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?*
 You might like to give pupils some time to share their ideas.



GAME OPTION ONE: SUPERHERO SCRAMBLE

RESOURCES: PowerPoint slides: Slides 2-18
PLAY: Display the anagrams on the slide. They are all the names of superheroes. Can the students work out who they are?
 For bonus points, what makes them so special/powerful?

GAME OPTION TWO: SUPERHERO DRESS UP RACE

RESOURCES: Sets of big shorts, t-shirts, masks, capes etc.
PLAY: Put the costume sets in separate piles at the front of the assembly. Choose up to four students to take part in the dress up race. The first person to dress as a superhero wins!
 You might like to follow up with a few questions:

- If they were a superhero, what would their superhero name and power be?
- Who is their favourite superhero, and why?



MESSAGE 1

SAY: Superpowers are amazing skills or abilities that are able to help people in amazing ways and change lives. We might not be able to fly, or see through walls, or have super-strength – but there is a superpower that all of us can have, if we want it. All of us have the power to be generous – and generosity is able to change the lives of everyone around us!



BIBLE STORY: ZACCHAEUS AND THE POWER OF GENEROSITY

SHARE: The story of Zacchaeus. There are a range of resources on request.org.uk.

- **Film:** Watch this short film about when Jesus met Zacchaeus: request.org.uk/restart/2015/11/23/zacchaeus-meets-jesus/
- **Pictures:** Look at the story through downloadable pictures: request.org.uk/restart/2014/10/16/zacchaeus/

Zacchaeus had been a tax collector – and nobody liked tax collectors. Zacchaeus loved money and would always take more than he should, to put in his own pocket!

But Jesus met him and treated him kindly – much better than he deserved. This generosity changed Zacchaeus.

- **It changed his actions.** Zacchaeus became generous himself. He decided to give back the money he had taken, and give away even more on top of that. This generosity would have made a huge difference to all kinds of people!
- **But it also changed how Zacchaeus felt on the inside.** His new

THINK: friendliness led to him having more friends. He became happier. What is the kindest thing anybody has ever done for you? How did it make you feel? What difference did it make to you?

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MESSAGE 2 (You might like to use a couple of objects to illustrate the message)

What makes generosity so powerful?

Firstly, generosity changes us

Object lesson 1: A boomerang.
When you throw a boomerang, it will come back to you. And it's the strange thing about generosity – no matter how much you give, you will always get more back in return!
There has been a lot of research over recent years to discover what the secret to happy life is. One thing keeps coming up: the happiest people are those who are the most generous: with their time, their energies, and the things they own. Being a 'giving' person is good for others, but good for us too!

Secondly, generosity changes communities

Object lesson 2: A set of dominoes.
When one is pushed over, it begins a chain reaction and all the rest come tumbling down. Generosity in one person can dramatically change things for other people.
Our generosity can very practically make a difference to other people who are in need. But it can also inspire other people to be generous – to 'pay it forward'. Just imagine what difference that could make, not just in our school community, but our towns, cities and across the world!

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INTRODUCTION TO 40 ACTS

EXPLAIN: The 40 Acts Generosity Challenge.

- Over the 40 days of Lent, each pupil will be challenged to be more generous to others.
- Along with thousands of other schools across the country, pupils will be given challenges every single day – from something fairly small to something much bigger. All of them will be acts of kindness and generosity.
- At the end of Lent, there will be a chance to share stories of generosity and reflect on the difference it has made.

If you have taken part in 40 Acts before, you might like to recap a few stories from previous years.

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CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God,
Thank you that you are a generous God. Thank you that you have given all of us something we can be generous with – whether that is time, talent or things. Help us to learn how we can share the good things you've given to us, to make the world a different, better place.
Amen.

CLASSROOM ACITIVITIES

1. THE GREAT TOY GIVE AWAY

Encourage the children to bring in one toy that is still in good condition but that they are willing to give away. You could have a toy sale after school and give the money to a local children's charity or if appropriate give the toys directly to the charity.

DISCUSS

Giving something away that is precious to you in order to bring happiness to another person can come at a cost. What cost could that be? Think about the monetary value but also the emotional cost behind a generous act. Think also about whether you can put a value onto someone's happiness.

2. THE VIDEO THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE: THE DOMINO EFFECT

Discuss what the consequences of these scenarios may be:

a. You and your sister are messing about in her bedroom and together you manage to break a present that your Grandma had given her last Christmas. It is something that she really treasures. It can be easily replaced but it will cost money that your sister doesn't have. Are you willing to help her pay to get a new present? What could the consequences be either way?

b. You are really late for school. Just as you are going to walk through the school gates you see your friend's mum who is carrying a heavy bag of shopping and pushing a pushchair. Suddenly the bag of shopping splits and the things go everywhere. What would you do? What would be the consequences of stopping or not stopping to help?

After your discussion watch the video: [youtube.com/watch?v=PT-HBI2TVtI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PT-HBI2TVtI)

Look carefully at each of the people. What was the consequence of one person being generous and helping another? Now go back and discuss the scenarios again – has your opinion changed?

3. SUPERHERO TO THE RESCUE

Design the superhero that you think the world needs today. Think about the characteristics and powers as well as the looks. In the worship we spoke about generosity being a super power. What other powers might our superhero need? For the older children you may want to look at some of the news headlines to see what is happening locally, nationally and internationally and the problems your superhero may have to tackle.

You could link this with 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

[biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+13%3A4-8&version=ESV](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+13%3A4-8&version=ESV)

And then compare this description of love with what is needed to tackle the world's problems.

WEEK 2 ASSEMBLY: GENEROSITY CHANGES THE WORLD

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP OBJECTIVES (EASTER EDITION)

Choose from the following to create your own assembly or act of collective worship:





BIG QUESTION

RESOURCES: PowerPoint slides: Slide 19
THINK: Display this big question as pupils enter: What is the greatest present somebody could give you and why?
 You might like to give pupils some time to share their ideas.



MESSAGE 1

SAY: We have spent the last 40 days thinking about all the things we can give to other people. But we have now arrived at a special time of year of billions of people across the world who are celebrating the greatest gift of all time – a gift given 2000 years ago that they believe changed the world forever.
 But what could it be?

Object lesson: A prepared 'gift' – a wrapped cardboard box which contains a doll, a palm cross and a Bible verse (John 3:16 – 'For God loved the world so much that he gave his only son, so that all who believe in him... might have eternal life').
 Take some ideas for what might be in the box.
 Open it up. Look at the 'clues' one at a time – can anybody guess what the gift is, or what it means?



BIBLE STORY: EASTER

SHOW: You may like to show either the story of what happened during the first Easter, or the significance of Easter to Christians today. There are a range of resources on request.org.uk.

- **Animations:** These short, animated films show the story of Holy Week and Easter and are suitable for younger pupils:
request.org.uk/restart/2016/03/14/holy-week-and-easter/
- **Film:** This film explains the importance of Easter – how Jesus' death helped build a bridge between God and humankind:
request.org.uk/jesus/death-and-resurrection/why-did-jesus-die/

Easter is an incredibly important time for Christians. We often talk about Christmas being a time when God gave people the 'gift' of the baby Jesus. But this 'gift' really only makes sense at Easter.
 At Easter Christians remember how Jesus died on a cross. But they believe that his death was, in fact, the greatest act of generosity of all time. When Jesus died, he made a way for all people to know a brand new life with God – both now and forever.



REFLECTION ON 40ACTS

SHARE: Encourage pupils to share about their favourite bits from 40 Acts.

- You could do this by taking answers from a select number of pupils.
- You might like to do this in classes, with each class sharing a presentation they have made about their experiences of 40 Acts.
- You might like to compile a whole school 'celebration', having collected pictures / filmed vox pops, etc, in advance.

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MESSAGE 2

SAY:

Never underestimate the difference that your generosity can make. For Christians, Easter is a time when they remember how one huge act of kindness changed the world for all people, for all time. And, as we reach the end of Lent, let's take inspiration from the events of Easter to believe that each of us has the power to use our kindness to change the world for somebody else.

You may never know the difference that your generosity has made over the last 40 days to the people you have helped. But let's keep on giving – because generous people change the world!

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CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for Easter. Thank you that you gave your son Jesus so that all of us can know you beside us as our lifelong friend. Help us to learn from your generosity. Give us big hearts so that we can live lives of kindness that will help change the world for the people we meet.

Amen.

CLASSROOM ACITIVITIES

1. GREATEST GIFT

Continue from the discussion about the greatest gift you have ever received. You may want to have a big box in the room – tell the class that this is a special box as it can hold anything that can fit into your imagination. With this in mind they are going to create the greatest gift they can for the world – in fact it could be made up of lots of different gifts and ideas or it could be just one gift. Give each child time to discuss and think about their own ideas and why they would give that gift. They could then go away and draw the gift or just simply discuss their ideas.

2. GOD'S GIFT TO US

To understand the verse: 'For God so loved the world...' is a difficult one for any of us to completely understand so it would be good to give the class time to reflect and ask any questions that have arisen due to the worship. May be if appropriate they could write a prayer or a worship song leading from this time of reflection.

3. IF I COULD CHANGE THE WORLD FOR A DAY...

Either through written work, drama or discussion ask the children to think about what the world would be like if they could change it for just one day. Once all the ideas have been thought about give time to reflect on who made the world a 'kinder and more generous place?' Why or why not?

Acknowledgements

About the authors

Rachel Carron has been a primary school teacher for 10 years. She lives in Luton and is an active member of Stopsley Baptist Church, where she is part of the preaching and worship teams.

RE:quest (request.org.uk) is a free, online bank of source material to support teaching and learning about the Christian faith in RE. The site includes original short films, articles, images and games for pupils aged 4 to 16 covering a range of Christian stories, beliefs and practices, as well as lesson ideas for teachers. RE:quest is a project of national youth work charity Youth for Christ.

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