

A school assembly / youth group activity.

This activity is based broadly on 1 Peter 4 v 10 and takes the form of a story told by a narrator with a varied number of volunteers.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms”.

It also has a sport theme in the form of a relay race, and it can be played using a relay baton.

Aims

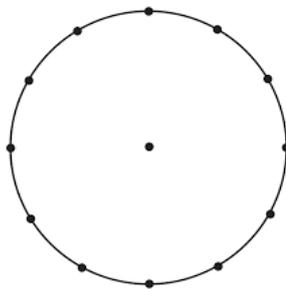
To explore how people in the church can help and support each other, how the church can be like a team where each person supports and encourages others, and is in turn supported and encouraged by them.

Preparation and materials

- Relay race baton (preferably bright colour, can be purchased for £5-£10)

Activity

1. The leader / narrator explains that they are going to tell a story, and they will be assisted by twelve volunteers. (The number of volunteers can be adapted by changing the structure of the story, and the character names can be changed if needed).
2. The narrator picks one volunteer, hands them the relay baton and starts the story. As the story progresses the narrator calls up more volunteers and as each volunteer comes up the person who has the baton must pass it to them, and the volunteers gradually form a circle around the narrator.



3. At the end of the story the baton passes back to the first volunteer, joining the circle.

The story

This is the story of a church community and some of the people in it. This story starts with Mrs Garcia.

1. **Mrs Garcia** is a widow who lives on her own, she sometimes gets lonely. She is bi-lingual, speaking both English and Spanish.
2. **Charlie** is working on his A levels, he's struggling a bit with conversational Spanish, and so Mrs Garcia offers to help him. Visiting Mrs Garcia and talking to her in Spanish boosts his knowledge and his confidence.
3. **Kate** is a neighbour of Charlie's family, she is an accountant who works from home and she is also a mum with two young boys. Her husband is away from home on business when she gets a call asking her to visit her aunt who is very ill. She'll need to be away for a couple of hours but doesn't want to take her boys, Charlie who knows the family offers to look after the boys for a couple of hours for her.
4. **Mr Freeman** is DIY handyman who recently went self-employed. He didn't realise that with self-employment comes tax returns and forms that he is not sure how to fill in. Kate, who is an accountant, assists him by helping with his tax return.
5. **Dave** who is a freelance writer is putting up a shed at the end of his garden and needs to use a drill for this job, but he hasn't got a cable that will run to the end of the garden, he needs a cordless drill. Mr Freeman who has an excellent cordless drill lends it to him for the job.
6. **Dr Lucy Smith** is a scientist who was part of a team that has developed a ground-breaking therapy for cancer. She has been asked by the local paper to write an article about her experiences, writing is not a strong skill for her, but Dave helps her out.
7. **Mr Brooks** is a local 6th form science teacher. He wants to find a lab to visit with some of his pupils so that they can see how professional scientists actually work. Dr Smith arranges for his pupils to visit her lab.
8. **Grace** is doing her A levels, her main strengths are in Art and English but she is also doing Biology. There's a biological concept that she just can't understand; Mr Brooks who teaches at a different college spends some time with her and explains the idea in a different way, and now it makes sense to Grace.
9. **Jack** is a local businessman with three young children. He's been wondering what to get as a present for his parents 40th wedding anniversary and has decided to get a portrait of the children drawn for them. Grace draws the picture of them for him.
10. **Mike** works as a buyer for a major supermarket chain and also oversees the kids work at church. His childrens ministry team have been complaining that the toys and resources are getting old and need replacing. Having had a good year with his business Jack gives the church a donation for new kids equipment.
11. **John** is a member of the church pa team, but he's also always had a heart for those on the margins of the local community. He decides to set up a food bank. Mike who is a professional buyer helps him to buy food cheaply and efficiently when the food bank is set up.
12. **Jackie** has recently retired but still runs a small business selling pottery from her home. When her laptop stops working she can't run her business properly, John who is an IT expert helps her by fixing her laptop. The fact that she is now working from home means she can spend a couple of hours a week visiting **Mrs Garcia** so that she has some company.

And so the circle completes.

Lessons from the activity

In our church community we can both reach out for help and help others, this echoes Peter's words in 1 Peter 4 v 10 where he says:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms".

In this way the church can be like a team, working together with every member supporting the others.