

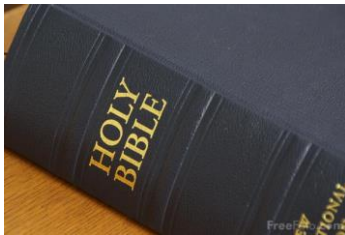


HOW TO DO A REALLY GOOD ASSEMBLY IN 6 EASY STAGES

1. FORMULATE

Choose a theme. Pray and ask God to show you what your school needs to hear.

The Bible is our chief source book. Try reading one of the Gospels to see which stories and teaching are particularly relevant to your target age-group. See these stories with fresh eyes by 'translating' them into today's world. For instance, the paralysed man was brought to Jesus on a mat (Luke 5). How would his mates have transported him today – in a wheelchair? This might suggest a suitable visual aid or other way into the story.



Also look in the natural world (see Romans 1:20). Jesus used visual aids from the world around him – vineyards, harvest fields, bread baking. What are the modern equivalents? And what about looking in books, films, current chart songs? Or think about questions that people want answering like Who made

God? Why does God allow suffering? What happens when we die? Or think about common misconceptions – Jesus never really existed; Christianity is just a crutch for people who can't stand on their own feet; all roads lead to God etc. And last but by no means least, don't rule out using your own experience. Our own experience of Christ is a powerful witness that what we're saying really changes peoples' lives. We're part of the message we present, a living visual aid for the work of Christ in our lives.

Then, when you've come up with the theme you want to tackle think about this: what is the ONE thought, question, challenge, impression or image you want the pupils to remember from your assembly? Formulate this aim and express it in one simple sentence. If you're not clear about your aim, the pupils may take away a confused message.

2. FACTORS

Review the important factors. What is the age-range, maturity and background of the pupils? How much time will you actually have after notices, presentations etc? What resources do you have in terms of helpers, OHPs, music or materials?

3. FOCUS

How will you get the pupils to focus their attention on your message?
Will it be through visual aids, drama, music, testimony, a story,
involving pupils as volunteers in a game or what?



4. FRAMEWORK

Now you need to build a framework. You need:

- An introduction. Decide what your first sentence will be. It might be a question, a controversial statement, or asking for a volunteer. Make it crisp and confident.
- A clear development. This is the main part of your presentation. Make sure that different elements flow into one another smoothly. Will pupils understand what's happening? Will you keep them interested?
- A conclusion. This might be one clearly stated sentence that offers a challenge or a question to ponder – this will reflect the ONE aim you came up with for the assembly at the Formulate stage.

5. FORETHOUGHT

Avoid last minute panics. Make a checklist of props or visual aids needed. If lots of you are involved, make sure you all know when and where to be and who's doing what in the assembly. If you're using visual aids or doing some kind of demonstration, practice beforehand. Rehearse any stories or drama. Best of all, do a run-through of the whole thing before the day.

6. FEAR NOT!

Speaking to a large number of children or young people can be nerve wracking. Pray and ask God to help you speak clearly and effectively. He won't let you down. Confidence also comes from knowing the material well. As you read over what you're planning to say, weed out any jargon or words that are hard to understand and cut out any needless repetition. Remember your ONE aim and eliminate additional messages that have crept in. Check timing - the last thing you want is to be saying the most important bit just as the bell goes!

If you've measured your material against these 6 easy Stages, you can go out in confidence that your assembly will present a clear message and hold the attention of that hall full of young people.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

*In all your ways acknowledge him,
And he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5

HAVE FUN!!