


CELEBRATING
20 YEARS OF TLG!

God's love Knows No Bounds

TLG Sunday Script 2019/2020

10 minute short presentations as part
of the leader's guide.

 Sunday

PSALM 107 V 1,4 & 10

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever...⁴ Some wandered in desert wastelands, finding no way to a city where they could settle...¹⁰ Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness, prisoners suffering in iron chains...”

POINT 1: Children Today:

Psalms 107 talks to us about people in a wasteland suffering in iron chains. For a generation of children growing up in our country today it is all they know to feel weighed down, restricted and bound by the chains of circumstances they didn't choose or situations they can't cope with. More often than not there is no awareness that life can be different and certainly no awareness of a God who is loving enough to set them free.

I wonder if God is breaking your heart for these children in our country this morning? What are you going to do when you connect with God's heart on this today?

POINT 2. The Current Need:

Did you know that:

- There are 4.1 million children living in relative poverty in our country.
- 1 in 3 parents from low income families have said they regularly miss a meal so that their children can eat.
- 1 in 10 children feel unable to cope with the school day.
- Two thirds of children say they worry all the time.

This is not ok!

POINT 3: Imagine...

If I say the word 'chains' to you, what do you think of? What do you visualise? More often than not chains are used to restrict, to contain, to hold down or to hold back. When we speak in spiritual terms, chains can mean all the same things.

So many of our nation's children are sitting in classrooms struggling to cope with the chains on their life and desperately failing to control their responses to the things they can't cope with.

- There have been over 400,000 exclusions of children in the UK this past year
- Every day 45 children are excluded from Nursery, Reception and Year 1.

We are being called to be Jesus' hands and feet here - come on church, what is God saying to you about this this morning?

TLG CONTEXT:

The TLG journey began with one struggling, weighed-down, teenager called Lewis. Under the chain of an angry home life Lewis struggled to cope and had been excluded from school time and time again. When Lewis started coming along to the local church youth group the youth leaders knew they had to do more to support Lewis, and so TLG was born.

Fast-forward 20 years and God has raised up over 220 churches across the country to reach out to struggling children and families through one of TLG's 3 programmes.

Our 13 Education Centres put local church at the centre of the lives of teenagers who are at crisis point, struggling under the weight of their chains.

Our Early Intervention programme is designed to put a church volunteer alongside a struggling primary school child for an hour each week. For that hour, the burden of those chains will be supported and shared. Today there are over 100 churches running Early Intervention, from Cornwall to Inverness, supporting over 500 struggling children each year.

Last year we added Make Lunch to our programmes which was created to equip churches to lift the chain of hunger and feed the 1 in 5 children facing food insecurity in this country.

Praise God that we can now say that over the last 20 years, with the local UK church, we have supported over 10,000 struggling children!

PSALM 107 V 13-16:

Let's go back to Psalm 107.

"¹³ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. ¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness, and broke away their chains. ¹⁵ Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, ¹⁶ for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron."

SHAUNA'S STORY:

Let's take a look at the story of a teenage girl weighed down by bereavement and unforgiveness. It has been remarkable to see the transformational impact the local church has had here. Let's take a look at Shauna's story now.

INSPIRING YOUR CHURCH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Knowing that there are thousands of children and families facing crisis in their lives, TLG are passionate and committed about reaching many more as quickly as we can. I want to take a few minutes to ask you to stand with us as we seek to extend our reach so more struggling children can be supported: children just like Shauna. Our vision is to enable churches to be the light in the darkness, to be there for these struggling children. This vision is big because the need is big and is only getting bigger! We want to ensure that every child who needs help, receives that help, and we want to see local churches begin to experience ripples of transformation for generations to come. By 2025 TLG want to be supporting 10,000 children every single year through partnership with the local church in this country.

You will find under your seats your donation envelope and your opportunity to help us reach more children.

Please would you simply fill out the initial contact information to keep hearing about what God is doing through TLG and access more of our incredible stories of transformation. By handing that in this morning you will be sent a free copy of the TLG story 'Out of the Ordinary' as a thank you; written by our Chief Exec Tim Morfin. So, do fill those in today and hand them to at the end of the service, who will post back to TLG altogether. You will then receive your free copy of the book in the post a couple of weeks later.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to ask you to give a one-off donation this morning as part of the TLG offering. There is an urgent need for more churches to be reaching out to struggling children and their families all around the country, but the reality is for us to provide more help it depends on the generous gifts of many others; and this is something that everyone can do! If like me you know Jesus can break the chains of struggling children, burdened young people, and families facing difficulties all around the country, and you're excited to see that happen then now is your opportunity to stand with us.

We are currently in a phase of seeing more and more individuals choosing to join this incredible vision as God reveals his heart for those children that are struggling. This morning could you give a donation of £15, £50 or £150 to help reach more children. If you have the money on you this morning that's great; if not, don't worry, fill in what you can and indicate the amount you'd like to give, as long as there's a phone number a member of our team will be in touch with to complete the form. I'll give you a few minutes now to fill in those forms, so you can help us reach more struggling children.

CLOSE:

Let's pray to close and ask God to bless our offering.