



You will need...

- PPT

This assembly aims to talk to the children about religion, to examine whether it is dangerous or good

The story

Character/Actions	Lines
	Good morning, it is great to be here for this Assembly. My name is X, I'm here from X Church
	In January 2015 in France 12 people who published a magazine were killed. They were killed by 2 people who didn't like what they said in their magazine – they found it very offensive against their religion, and in their religion they believed it was right to kill the people who said the things they didn't like.
	Some people are saying, those two people were religious. They believed big things about God and the future that means they do things we don't like. If this is what religion does, it means religion must be bad, believing in God must be bad. And I want to say, it depends what you believe. People have believed stuff that was wrong in lots of religions. People have been Christians like me and done terrible things to other people – the Crusades for instance. But I want to show you someone who believed in Jesus and because of what he believed he did a lot of good



	<p>150 years ago, children in this country had a very different kind of life.</p> <p>Children were sent up chimneys to clean them. The children got bruises and cuts all over their body. And cancer.</p>
	<p>Hands up if you are aged between 4 and 16. You are the perfect age to work have worked down the mines. You are small enough to work in the tiny tunnels. You would have worked for 14 hours a day.</p>
	<p>You might have spent the day pushing coal wagons or holding a door open.</p>
	<p>Finally children worked in the factories. The work would have been for 12 hours a day, 6 days a week. They used children because the owners could pay them much less than adults.</p> <p>The children worked long hours, and were treated badly.</p>
Slide	<p>Now it was one man, more than any other who changed all of that. This is Lord Shaftesbury. He might not look like a hero but he is. He is our hero today.</p>
	<p>He grew up in an incredibly rich and privileged family, but no one in Lord Shaftesbury's family was a Christian. He learnt about Jesus from His child minder. Every night before bed, she would tell him a story about Jesus and would pray. That's how he came to trust in Jesus as His friend. Amazing! He went on to become a Member of Parliament in government- so he was able to change the lives of the whole country for Jesus.</p>
	<p>Let me tell you what makes him a hero...</p>
Slide	<p>He wanted Jesus to return</p>



	<p>He always remembered that one day Jesus will come back. He wanted to make sure that when Jesus came back, Jesus would be really pleased with what he had been busy doing.</p>
	<p>Just before he died he said this "I cannot think of one hour in the last forty years when I have not been changed by knowing that Jesus will come back". Imagine that!</p>
	<p>So Lord Shaftesbury worked incredibly hard, all the time thinking about Jesus coming back.</p>
Slide	<p>So let me tell you what he did, all because of Jesus' return...</p> <p>The 1875 Shaftesbury Act made it against the law to send children up chimneys to clean them.</p>
Slide	<p>The 1841 Mines Act, allowed only boys over the age of 10 to work in mines. Hands up everyone under 10 and all girls and women. You're safe because of Shaftesbury.</p>
Slide	<p>1874 Factory Act- Hands up if you're over 10 years old. Only children over 10 years old could work in a factory, and only for 10 hours a day.</p> <p>But he wanted children to go to school to learn, and in particular to learn about Jesus. So he set up "Ragged schools", where poor children could be given free Christian, education. Over his lifetime about 300,000 children were able to go to school.</p>
	<p>All of this work was hard. He spent his whole life fighting for those who couldn't fight for themselves. He lost many friends because of it, because his rich friends had to pay more for adults to do the work. Even his own father wouldn't allow him to come home for Christmas. But he carried on, and you know why don't you? Because he knew that Jesus is going to come back.</p>



Slide	On every envelope that he ever sent out he had the words of Rev 22:20 written on the flap, which says “Come, Lord Jesus”. He never wanted to forget and he never wanted anyone else to forget.
Slide	Can you tell me where this statue is? Piccadilly Circus. It’s the Shaftesbury Monument (or Eros), paid for the people he had helped to remind people of him.
Slide	And that road there is called “Shaftesbury Avenue”, so next time you walk down it, why don’t you thank God for Lord Shaftesbury and remember that Jesus is coming back!
	Pray