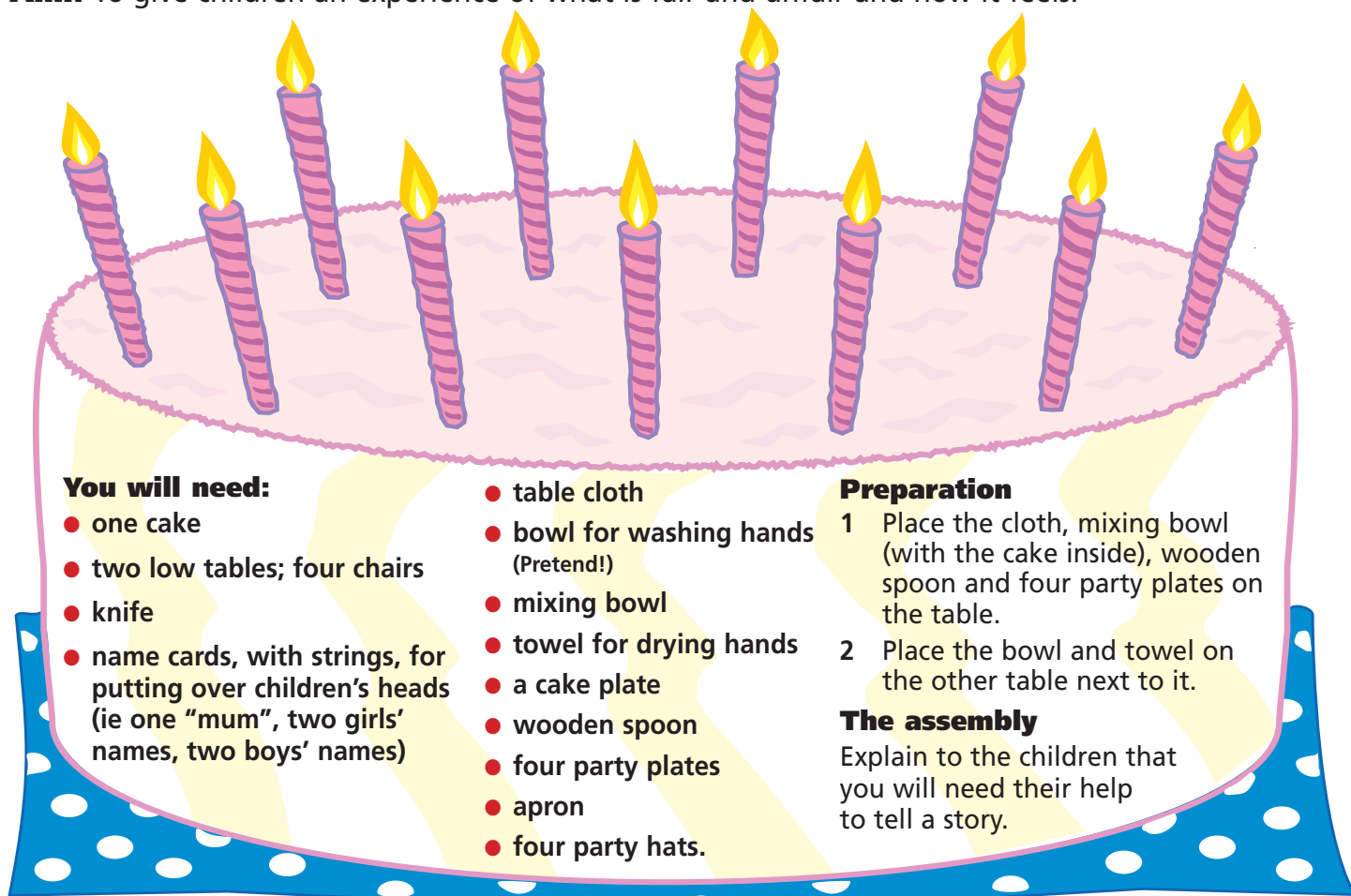


The birthday cake assembly

Aim: To give children an experience of what is fair and unfair and how it feels.



You will need:

- one cake
- two low tables; four chairs
- knife
- name cards, with strings, for putting over children's heads (ie one "mum", two girls' names, two boys' names)
- table cloth
- bowl for washing hands (Pretend!)
- mixing bowl
- towel for drying hands
- a cake plate
- wooden spoon
- four party plates
- apron
- four party hats.

Preparation

- 1 Place the cloth, mixing bowl (with the cake inside), wooden spoon and four party plates on the table.
- 2 Place the bowl and towel on the other table next to it.

The assembly

Explain to the children that you will need their help to tell a story.

The play

- 1 Tell the children that it is John's 4th birthday at the end of the week and if he is good he will be able to ask three children to his party.
- 2 Ask one of the older children to be a mum or dad. Invite her/him to come out to the table and put a name card around her/his neck and wear the apron. Ask her/him to stir the pretend cake mixture with a wooden spoon for a while; then take out the cake whole and put it on the cake plate. Then ask her/him to set the table with a cloth and four plates and put the cake in the middle with a knife beside it.
- 3 Choose four children to take part (two girls, two boys) decide which one is the 'birthday boy'. Invite the children to put on names and party hats.
- 4 Ask mum or dad to cut the cake into four pieces.
- 5 Ask mum or dad to look at the children's hands and take three children away to the other table to 'wash them'.
- 6 One child remains with you. Get him to sit down and take three pieces of cake, one at a time, from the cake plate.
- 7 Get the other children to come back and sit at the table when only one piece of cake remains.
- 8 Encourage the children to explain how they feel – (not fair – greedy – happy – sad etc). Children usually do not need much encouragement. Then encourage the other children to express their feelings.
- 9 The party children then stand in front, one child holding three pieces of cake and three children holding one piece of cake. Wait for a reaction and act accordingly. Then explain to the children that this is what happens in the real world – 75 per cent of the world's resources are shared among 25 per cent of the people in the world.
- 10 Light a CAFOD candle and say a prayer eg
*Lord Jesus teach me to care,
Lord Jesus teach me to share.*

