

## GIRLGUIDING THINKING DAY SERVICE GIRLS CAN...

### **The power of doughnuts**

We showed the Tearfund video of Tom Herbert in Laos, making sticky sticks, which are a very simple version of doughnuts. You can watch it on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MopmvDDrkw4&t=24>

It's simple: the power of doughnuts! How many people like doughnuts? Homer Simpson thinks that doughnuts are powerful!

Here is the second part of that story, the story of Ler. Ler is 17 and lives in Laos; she is one of eight children; her father has died and her mother is disabled; she needs to support her family, but where does she find the money? She heard about sticky sticks, this long doughnut; maybe she even lives in the village that Tom Herbert visited, and watched him make them. She gathered the money she had, a few pounds, and together with four of her friends, she started making sticky sticks, just like doughnuts. Ler and her friends then took the first batch of sticky sticks to the local school and sold out in morning; now they had twice as much money.

These girls now make sticky sticks every morning and take them around their village and the people in their village love them because they are so sweet; business is good and they are making money from their little business so that they can all support their families! They feel safe in their village and Ler's mother has all that she needs because of Ler and her friends and their sticky stick business.

It's simple: the power of doughnuts! They are just flour and sugar and knowing how to bake them; the girls in the village can keep themselves safe and help their families in need. It is a brilliant story; the power of doughnuts! But it is also the story of God helping: Tearfund, and Tom going to Laos are inspired by the love that God has for the world and because God loves world and because they were inspired by that love to do something to help, Ler and her friends can now help themselves and be safe. Tom helping the girls, the girls helping each other – inspired by the love that God has for world, change the world for themselves.

### STARTING SMALL

I have a few conkers; can you see them! I found these in my garden. Where do conkers come from? If I left them in my garden what would happen to them? (*One is beginning to split already*) What would they grow into? A Chestnut tree! How can this tiny little conker grow into that huge tree? But that's what happens. It might take years, but that's what it would do. Let me tell you about the squirrel: we have a squirrel who visits our garden when these conkers are on the tree and just falling off: the squirrel then picks up these conkers and buries them in the garden; its plan is to keep them for the winter as food; but it forgets where it has put them and in the spring, there are lots of chestnut trees that we have to dig up; we don't want hundreds of chestnut trees in the garden; we would lose the house!

Jesus told a story about a seed, a mustard seed. The farmer took the seed and planted it in the ground, and then waited to see what happened. Maybe he looked after it well; maybe he just left it in the ground. The seed started to grow; it started to sprout in the soil, out of sight, hidden away. The shoot started to grow up and its roots started to grow out from the seed and this small seed started to grow into

something much bigger. The shoot appeared above the ground, but it was still only something small; but with time it grew bigger and bigger and bigger till it became a tree and the birds came to nest in this tree.

Jesus' kingdom started small, just twelve people, most of whom weren't very sure of things to start with, but they learned, they grew in their faith, they grew to love Jesus and to love one another and later they were strong enough to tell others; Jesus' kingdom now spreads across the whole world where people love Him and believe. Some of you are small and growing up and there are all kinds of things you want to be and do when you grow up; some of us feel small, as if we're not strong enough to do anything worthwhile – what can I do to change the world, or change things for my life?

Esther was a famous queen a long time ago; her story is told in the Bible. She became queen because she was a bit of a beauty queen, but that's not why she became famous. Her story is told because she was full of faith, and full of courage; she stood up to evil in her world and because she was full of faith, full of courage and because she stood up to evil, she saved her people. To begin with she was scared, but when she was full of faith and courage once, she was more able to stand up for her faith the second time and the third time. In a world where she was not seen as important, even as queen, she challenged people in power; she even challenged the king and changed things in her world and for her people and saved them. She is well remembered because of her faith and her courage.

*“Whatever is true, noble, right...”* This is all about the quality of people we are. What we grow to **be** is even more important than what we grow up to do. Being the right kind of people is what really matters. This is true for all of us: that we are people who love, who have hope, who have faith, who are good people, and who have the courage to live by that faith. That's what we can grow into and it's fantastic! We can make a difference to this world of ours by being the right kind of people. We start small, but we can achieve amazing things by being the right kind of people.