READY TO USE PARABLE

# Tonya and the terrible tuck shop

“Have you not got any Freddos?”

“Can I have those apple slices?”

“Is that all you’ve got? Hummus?”

“Give me them Popchips!”

Tonya stared blankly at the crowd of Year-7s and Year-8s jostling for position. She’d only been running the school tuck shop for three days and already she’d had enough. It was meant to be a fun fundraising project, but the fun had stopped as soon as they’d opened. On the first day, they’d run out of everything that was even remotely unhealthy. By day two, anything carb-based had gone and now all they had was fruit, vegetables and dips. Even so, the ravenous hoard couldn’t get enough.

Temi came rushing through the door, carrying more bananas: “This is all we’ve got left. Mr Awoniyi said that he’ll go and get more of what we need, if we give him a list. But he can’t go until tomorrow night.”

“Tomorrow?” asked Tonya, a look of horror on her face. “We’ll have run out of everything by then! What are we going –”

She was cut short by an argument that had broken out at the front of what might laughably be called a queue. Some Year-10s had pushed their way forward and were now hoovering up whatever they could get their hands on.

“Hey!”

“Get to the back!”

“Shut it,” said one Year-10, elbowing someone out of the way and grabbing a bag of grapes. She chucked some money on the counter and pushed her way back through the crowd. By the time she and her mates had gone, all that was left was one tired-looking pear and a burst bag of carrot sticks.

“It’s not fair!” shouted one Year-7.

“You can’t let them do that!” said another.

“I’m going to tell Mrs da Silva,” said a third, rubbing his shoulder, which had borne the brunt of a swinging Year-10 backpack.

“We need some help,” Temi told Tonya. “Some kind of crowd control.”

Tonya thought for a minute, ignoring the shouts of her unhappy customers. Then she got it.

“The rugby girls!” she shouted. “They’d totally be able to manage the queues, and keep those Year-10s in line.”

Before Temi could say anything in reply, Tonya had her phone out and was messaging Tatiana, the captain of the rugby team.

“U busy? Gotta job 4U”

## Discussion questions

* Have you ever done something where you didn’t have enough help? What did it feel like?
* Where did you get help from?
* How do you choose people to help you? Do you go to your friends? Find people with the right skills? Ask others who might be the best person to give you a hand?
* How important is the attitude and personality of the people who help you? Is it more important than their practical skills?
* What do you need help with?

This story is based on Acts 6:1-7. Read this passage to the group and compare the story to this one. You may want to chat about the story using these questions:

* What do you like about this story?
* Are you in this story? Or is any of this story about you?
* What kind of people are Stephen and the other six?
* Read Acts 6:8-15. How might the story of Tonya, Temi and Tatiana carry on?

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