



8. God first!

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are reflecting on the story of Moses and journeying with him as he leads God’s people from Egypt and to the Promised Land. At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to be back together as a community, and so we are using the story of Moses to help us to reflect on some important ideas from this story about being community together and about God, who looked after them. These stories can be found in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur’an, recognising Moses as a prophet and leader in all three of these Abrahamic traditions: these stories often generate some challenging questions about judgement and justice (especially from older pupils), so in these collective worship resources, we choose to emphasise the positive messages and outcomes e.g. God seeing and responding to the cruel treatment of the people, and being *with* his people. We are very grateful to [FreeBibleImages](#) for the use of their PowerPoint slides and images for many of the assemblies this term.



How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?

This week, the focus is on what happened while Moses was up the mountain, and how easily the people were distracted from following God. There are opportunities to ‘wonder’ together throughout this week’s section of the story, and to think about what we prioritise and ‘put first’ – as a school community, and as individuals.

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today’s script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **Reflective prayer activity:** Provide some ‘golden paper’ (cut up wrapping paper is a very cheap option!) for pupils to write on what they ‘put first’

Gathering:

Slides 1&2 Use this two-step gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. Why not invent some actions to make them extra memorable?!



- **Leader:** On the journey of life....
- **Children:** ...we are glad to be together in our school community.
- **Leader:** As we gather together....
- **Children:** ...may we learn from each other and hear from God.

Engaging:

- **Slide 3:** Last week, we heard how God gave Moses ten good rules to help the people to live well together. We have been thinking through this past week about rules that are important to us, so I wonder what conclusions you’ve come to about why rules are important – here in school, as well as in life? [*talk together, based on your classroom findings*]
So, now let’s rejoin our Moses saga, where we left Moses up the mountain..... We’re going to take this story much slower today, and spend some time pondering some really big questions as we go through. [so we’ll be ‘wondering’ throughout the story]
It’s really important to remember that as we begin this part of the story, we know about the Ten Rules – but Moses has not come back to the people yet...
- **Slide 4:** Aaron and Joshua were left in charge of the people of Israel, while Moses went up Mount Sinai to talk to God. Aaron was Moses’ brother, who had been helping Moses to lead the people. The people waited for a very long time for Moses to come back again.
I wonder what the people are thinking about?
- **Slide 5:** They waited 40 days for Moses to come back down the mountain. It seemed so long that they thought he must have died.
- **Slide 6:** ‘We don’t know what has happened to Moses,’ the people complained. ‘We will make our own god,’ they said. ‘We are tired of waiting for Moses.’
I wonder what Aaron thinks about their idea?



- **Slide 7:** Aaron told the people to bring their gold earrings to make into a god. He melted the gold in a very hot fire and made a statue of a calf out of gold.
- **Slide 8:** ‘Tomorrow we will have a feast and pray to our new god,’ he said. ‘Go home and prepare a meat offering to burn on the altar.’

I wonder what Moses – and God – might think about this?

- **Slide 9:** The next day they burnt their offerings and danced and sang. But a calf made out of gold was not a real, living god and could not hear, or answer prayer.
- **Slide 10:** Moses came down from the mountain, carrying the Ten Good Rules.

I wonder what he might say to the people?

- **Slide 11:** He broke the stones God had written on.

I wonder why Moses did this?

Moses was very disappointed with what the people had done. Then everyone remembered how God had saved them and they were sorry.

- **Slide 12:** Moses went back up the mountain again, with two new stones. God gave Moses the new rules again. ‘Tell the people to live by these good rules,’ God said. ‘Help them to remember

I wonder if they will.....? [Cliffhanger sound effects]

Slide 13: Responding (words for worship):

Let’s be still together and turn our ‘wondering’ thoughts to our own school community..... [Pause and talk together, as time allows]

....I wonder what it might mean for someone to ‘put God first’?....

....I wonder what’s first in your life?....

....I wonder how our times together at school help us to focus on things that we ‘put first’?

.....

Slide 14: Prayer

Now I’m going to use the words of a prayer to draw our time together today to a close. Make it your own if you would like to, or just be still and quiet with your own thoughts.

Slide 15: Amen

Sending: Slide 16: Remind children of today’s key message – to consider what we ‘put first’

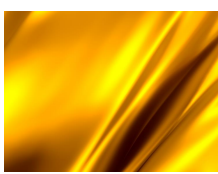
Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

All: May today’s words help us to become a stronger community!

To listen to / sing:

[Golden Rule & Actions;](#)

[Golden Rule](#) (AAOS); or [Together as one](#) (POP UK)

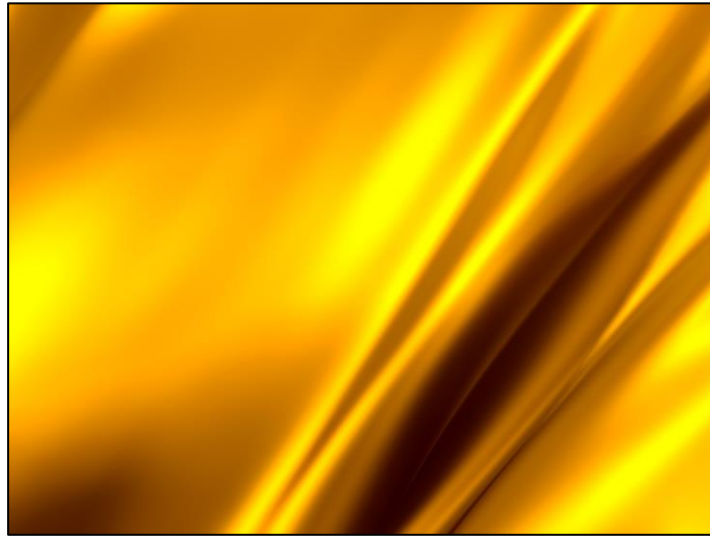


Reflective activity: Golden Paper

Cut up some small squares of special gold paper.

Children reflect and then write on the paper something that they put first, the most important thing for them. Think together about how we *show* what we put first – as a school community, or as individuals.





What's first?



Our story this week reminded us of how the Israelites didn't put God first...and how disappointed Moses was.



Which things do you 'put first' in your life? Maybe God is one of them..... How do you show what you put first?



Take a small piece of special gold paper. Write on it something that you want to put first in your own life.

