

12. Waiting.....

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 is part of our new series 'Songs from the heart'. You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. **This week we reach the Easter narrative, and its links with the Psalms, although from the calendar, it will fall during the Easter holiday. We deliberately leave this week – and this term – on a cliffhanger, and in a somewhat downcast mood, which fits with both the texts from the Psalms and elements of Palm Sunday / Maundy Thursday / Good Friday.***

NB During this week, we will be drawn into exploring any feelings of separation, loneliness or sadness that children may have experienced. Whilst there are opportunities to reflect on the seriousness of this event in the Christian calendar, in which Jesus expresses his feelings of abandonment, and the very human emotions that are awakened in us by this, we are keen to remind children that this is not the end of the story.

Any disclosures should of course be handled in accordance with your school's safeguarding policy.



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

Use this section to reference your school's values and the things that are a part of your school's unique vision. This week, the challenges of the words that David wrote, reflected in the quoted by Jesus, will be supported by your school's vision for valuing and walking alongside all children, whatever they face, and the very practical ways in which you do this in your own school's context.

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.
- **This week, we will be using a number of images to illustrate/explore the events of Maundy Thursday / Good Friday. You may wish to select from these to suit your school context.**
- **You will need a sand timer for the reflection time in this script, and for your reflective areas this week. You will need to choose one that lasts longer than the reflection and prayer section, so have a rehearsal to make sure!**

Gathering:

Slides 1-3: Use these new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. The greeting comes with BSL signing; you can view the demos using links under the slide.



Leader: As we gather together,

ALL: ...we bring our hearts.

Leader: As we gather together,

ALL: ...we share our thoughts.

Leader: As community together,

ALL: We serve one another.

Signs for greeting: click on links

Hearts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - heart](#) (or you could use your hands as shown in the image)

Thoughts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - thought](#)

Serve: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - serve](#) (or you could just open your hands in front of you)

Engaging:

- **Slide 4: Songs from the heart**



We have reached the end of our term of themes – and we are going to finish this term in a rather unusual way, on a bit of a cliffhanger.....more of that in a moment! Throughout this term, we have shared in David's songs from the heart and thought about how his words express so many of the different things that we all experience as human beings. Across his life, there were many ups and downs – I wonder if you can identify some of them?

- Many millions of people have drawn strength and hope from David's words in the Psalms, and have found something to encourage them whether they are up or down!
- **Slide 5: scenes from David's life**



As we look at each of these, identify which are 'up' moments (show thumbs up) and which are 'down' moments (show thumbs down) *[go through pictures in turn, asking children to vote with their thumbs for each]*

- Defeating Goliath
- Being hunted by King Saul
- God is my shepherd
- Saying farewell to Jonathan
- Being anointed as King

Many millions of people have drawn strength and hope from David's words in the Psalms, and have found something to encourage them whether they are up or down!

- **Slide 6:** At this point in the calendar, we are turning our focus towards Easter. It might surprise you to know that David's words are scattered throughout the events that Christians all across the world remember at this time. Before we find out some more, let's recap what we remember of the story – and we can use our thumbs again, to remind each other of whether they were a 'thumbs up' / good part of the story, or a 'thumbs down' part.....

[use slides 7-11 to help you. Some pupils might be able to see more deeply into the complexity of these events, and articulate that although the events may seem 'thumbs up' (e.g. eating together), what the events point to is Jesus' death, so maybe more a 'thumbs down', or vice versa because of what Christians believe about Jesus' death! Allow a bit of time for these ideas, or follow up in your RE lessons. The slides in this presentation contain images from across the world, to show how significant these events are for Christians from different cultures. You may need to explain this to younger pupils. There will be some further images where we connect with words from the Psalms]

- **Slide 7: Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey (Palm Sunday) and people cheered for him as a King.** Is this a 'thumbs up' moment or a 'thumbs down' moment? *[Image from a manuscript, 103-1040 CE]*
- **Slide 8: Jesus and his friends had dinner together, a Last Supper.** Is this a 'thumbs up' moment or a 'thumbs down' moment? *[Image from American artist John Swanson, showing his Mexican heritage]*
- **Slide 9: The disciples go with Jesus to the Garden called Gethsemane, but they all fall asleep instead of keeping Jesus company.** Is this a 'thumbs up' moment or a 'thumbs down' moment? *[Image from the MAFA community in Cameroon, Central Africa]*
- **Slide 10: Judas shows the soldiers who Jesus is, by greeting him with a kiss.** Is this a 'thumbs up' moment or a 'thumbs down' moment? *[Image from American artist John Swanson, showing his Mexican heritage]* At this point, Jesus is arrested by the soldiers and the disciples run away, leaving him alone.
- **Slide 11: Jesus dies on the cross.** Is this a 'thumbs up' moment or a 'thumbs down' moment? *[Image from 16th Street Baptist Church, Wales]*

- **Slide 12: Songs from the heart**

Let's find out where the words from the Psalms pop into the Easter narrative.....

After all we've learned this term, it's probably no surprise that David's words appear at both a 'thumbs up' and a 'thumbs down' moment!

- **Slide 13:** When the people cheered Jesus riding into Jerusalem, they used some words from Psalm 118: **"God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"**, which is a part of one of David's songs of victory, when God had saved him. Everyone was very excited to see Jesus, because they believed that he was going to be the King who would save them from the Romans.
- **When Jesus hung on the cross, he used some of the most desperate words ever written by David: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Psalm 22:1** *[forsaken is another word for abandoned, or left alone]*

For Jesus, this was the deepest darkest moment of all, when he felt completely separated from God, his Father. When Jesus had no words of his own to express how he was feeling, he used the words that David had written many hundreds of years before.

It was the deepest darkest moment for the disciples, who had hoped that Jesus would save them from the Romans: their waiting and hoping had all been for nothing. For Christians, this is the deepest darkest



moment in the whole Easter account, when Jesus gave up his life: and yet they call the day when this part of the story is remembered, 'Good Friday'. It maybe whispers that all is not lost....that better things will come, but for now we will wait until after the holiday to pick up the rest of the story!

Slide 14: Responding (and words for worship): you will need the sand timer for this section

As we reflect and wonder together today, let's be still and quiet....
As you think, you might like to watch the sand as it trickles through the sand timer.....

....I wonder what ***you*** are waiting for?....

....I wonder what your heart longs for?....

....I wonder if you carry disappointments, like the disciples did?....

....I wonder if any of the words written by David, his songs from the heart, might help you as you wait?....

....maybe it's good to remind ourselves that all is not lost.....

....let's hear some final words from David now as we continue to watch the sand....



Slide 15: 'Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.'

These words come from the same song (Psalm 27) that David wrote about his heart's desire, which we heard about a few weeks ago. 'Taking heart' is another word for having hope, recognising that difficult circumstances, and waiting, often lead to better things and building resilience in us.

These are good words to hear at this point in the story.....

Though Jesus' disciples may have lost all hope, we know from the story that this deep dark moment is not where the story ends.....so let's take heart and be strong for ourselves, whatever we are facing....

Prayer: As we continue to watch the sand, you might like to bring what's in your heart as a prayer before God. Use your own words in your heart, or just continue to be still and quiet... *[leave space for children to think/pray]*

To sing / listen to:

Use an Easter song from your collection, or if you prefer you could use the song 'Resilience in me' that we've used during this term: [Resilience In Me | Official Lyric Video | Songs For School](#) as it fits perfectly with the theme of waiting in hope that we leave the term with.



There is a beautiful Taizé refrain based on Jesus' words in Gethsemane: it's quite long, so you could use an excerpt, or have it playing in your classroom as background music during this week: [TAIZÉ – Stay With Me](#) Maybe for older children, there is a beautiful Christian song that speaks about what Jesus' death means for Christians, by Christy Gayle: [Charity Gayle - Thank You Jesus for the Blood \(Live\)](#)

Sending: Slide 17

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

All:may we serve one another in our **thoughts** and **words** and **actions**.

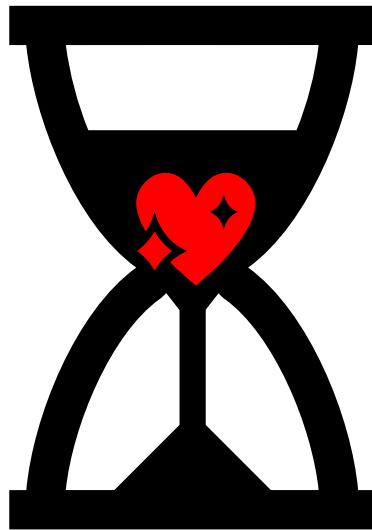


Ideas for classroom reflection: Waiting.....

Are there things that you are waiting for? Maybe something that you are longing to see happen?

Turn over the sand timer and watch the sand trickle through. Some things take a long time..... You might want to use the time to help you think or pray about what you are waiting, or ponder David's words about 'taking heart'.





David wrote these words: 'Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.'

[Psalm 27: 14]



What are you waiting for at this time? Maybe there are deep longings in your heart.....or disappointments that you carry, like the disciples....



Talk together about any words from David's songs that might help you as you wait.



Turn the sand timer over and watch the grains trickling through as you think or pray.



