

### 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 (and with apologies for the split infinitive!) ‘To boldly go....’.* 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 take to the skies and hear the story of Amelia Earhart, the first woman pilot to fly across the Atlantic Ocean – and champion of women’s rights.**



### 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, our insight into Amelia’s philosophy on life and adventuring might seem trivial – ‘for the fun of it’ – but the underlying messages about finding purpose and deep satisfaction in life, encouraging others and tackling challenges head-on are also very much at the heart of the materials this week. Living ‘life in all its fulness’ would seem to be a very appropriate description!

### 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.
- **Rucksack object this week: the compass**
- Today’s materials include the story of Amelia Earhart’s many achievements in her relatively short life prior to her disappearance in 1937. All images have been sourced copyright-free and are linked to the original source.
- There is a short BBC History clip of Amelia’s story here: [KS2: Amelia Earhart - BBC Teach](#). Pupil-friendly Pathe newsreel film showing the news of her disappearance in 1937: [File:Amelia Earhart Disappears \(1937\).webm - Wikimedia Commons](#) The clip shows her with her husband George Putnam and navigator, Fred Noonan.
- This week also provides a great opportunity to connect with your wider curriculum and rebalance some of the male adventurers that history records with some more women – British women, at that – also blazing a trail. Find out more here: [Isobel Wylie Hutchison: Meet the woman who travelled the Arctic solo in the 1920s - Wired For Adventure](#) and [Elizabeth Le Blond: Meet the woman who pioneered mountain filmmaking - Wired For Adventure](#)
- The reflection section this week provides you with a choice on **slides 11 or 12** – or you could use them on different days. **Slide 11** shows 4 things that Amelia said in her life that might have been an encouragement to others. (NB You may wish to pick one to use in the assembly, the choice of which may be influenced by the age of your pupils.) **Slide 12** is a bit more open-ended and focused on qualities that pupils think Amelia possessed which might inspire us. The script contains some pointers for each, linking them to the verse from the Bible.
- **This week, you will make some encouragement cards for your reflective area, picking up on how Amelia spent her life encouraging other women to reach for their dreams, and some words from the Bible about the importance of encouragement. If you want to include some of Amelia’s encouraging (and challenging!) words in your reflection area to inspire your class, search here: [TOP 25 QUOTES BY AMELIA EARHART \(of 63\) | A-Z Quotes](#)**

### Gathering:

**Slide 1 or 2 [choose whichever image you prefer, or use them in rotation]:**

Use the greeting for this term

**Leader:** We are on this journey together...

**Children:** We are friends along the way...

**ALL:** May God go with us.

### BSL interpretation:

Sign for ‘way’ (nearest to the idea of ‘journey’): [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - way](#)

Sign for ‘friends’: [British Sign Language: friends](#)

Sign for ‘God’: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for ‘go with us’ – we have invented this! After you’ve signed ‘God’, bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them ‘journey together’ in front of you.



## Engaging:

As we heard last week, in the final term of this school year, we are beginning a new theme:



- **Slide 3: To boldly go.....** Recap on last week's adventure
- **Slide 4: What's in the rucksack?**  
Let's begin today with our trusty rucksack and find out what we have as our object for today....  
This is a compass – I wonder if anyone has ever used one of these? Or knows what it's for?  
It's a very useful object to help someone to navigate – find their way – and like last week's macintosh, was very much an essential item for today's adventurer. More of that in a few moments.....
- **Slide 5: Old or new? Last week, we played a game called 'Old or new?'**  
I have one more picture to show you....
- **Slide 6: Spot the differences** – as you look at the old and the new side by side, I wonder how many differences you can spot between them?  
*Allow children to talk about some of the major differences between the planes – depending on the age of your pupils, you may need to ask some leading questions!*  
The top picture is of a bi-plane – so-called because it has two wings. I wonder what might have been difficult about flying like this? Mind you, if you think this would be a bit tricky to fly in, the first planes were even more terrifying!  
The very first plane to become airborne was designed and flown by Orville and Wilbur Wright, in 1903. It managed to fly all of 36.5 metres before hitting the ground!  
Our adventurer for today was also famous for flying planes – but planes that were a little better at staying up in the air than the Wright Brothers' plane!
- **Slide 7: This is Amelia Mary Earhart** who was born in in Kansas, USA in 1897, just 9 years after Thomas Stevens completed his Penny Farthing adventure.  
In 1920, when she was 23 years old, she went on her first aeroplane flight and from that point on, she knew what she wanted to do in life – to fly planes.  
It might seem a little strange to us, but Amelia's world was very different to ours: it was a common thought that there were some things that women couldn't or shouldn't do, and throughout her life, Amelia was determined to challenge this idea, as we'll hear.  
And so, she took flying lessons: she was determined that nothing would stop her from achieving her dream! In 1928, she travelled with fellow pilots Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon....
- **Slide 8: ....from Newfoundland to Wales**, in an aeroplane called 'The Friendship'. It was the first time that any woman had ever flown that far. She took every chance she could to talk to people about it and even **published a book** about her adventure. By now she had become an international celebrity, and she was more determined than ever to champion the cause of women. In 1931, Amelia Earhart became the first president of an all-female flying club called the Ninety-Nines and then finally, in 1932, became the first woman to fly solo, on her own, across the Atlantic Ocean, following almost the same route that she had travelled 4 years earlier.  
She was awarded the **Distinguished Flying Cross** medal in honour of her achievements, but what was even more important to her was the knowledge that never again would people assume that only men could fly!
- **Slide 9: Across the Pacific Ocean**  
In 1932, she published a second book, capturing one of her most famous sayings, '**For the fun of it**', which told stories from her life and helped people to understand her attitude to life, her taste for adventure and her refusal to let people's attitudes squash her dreams. Just 3 years after, in 1935, she became the first woman to fly across the Pacific Ocean from **Hawaii to California**. She was also the first person (man or woman!) ever to fly this route solo. But her biggest adventure yet – and one of the world's still unsolved mysteries – was still to come.....
- **Slide 10: Around the world**  
In 1937, Amelia and her navigator Fred Noonan set out from Miami, Florida to fly East for a round-the-world trip by air that would see them travel along the coasts of North and South America, across Africa and India and out towards Papua New Guinea, refuelling as they went along. They left Lae, on Papua



New Guinea on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, for almost the last leg of their journey to Honolulu before reaching America again, when their plane disappeared. It has never been found which remains one of the world's greatest mysteries. *[If you click on the link in the Resources section, you can see a Pathe newsreel featuring the news of her disappearance]*

We're going to leave Amelia's adventure there for now, and think for ourselves about how the story of her life might be an encouragement to us.....

### **CHOOSE FROM SLIDE 11 OR SLIDE 12**

**Slide 11: Encouraging words** *You might want to select one or two of these to talk through with children.*

Here are some words that Amelia Earhart spoke in her lifetime. I wonder which you think might have inspired or encouraged others? Or how they might encourage or inspire you? *[talk through each / the quote you have selected, using the suggestions highlighted here]*

**Everyone has oceans to fly, if they have the heart to do it. Is it reckless? Maybe. But what do dreams know of boundaries?**

- In these words, Amelia is saying that everyone has a dream to do or be something, and that believing in your dream takes great courage. Making your dream happen can sometimes be challenging – you have to sometimes take risks, or do things (like she did) that no-one has tried before.

**If enough of us keep trying, we should get someplace!**

- Some situations seem impossible (for Amelia, like women being treated the same as men). But the more people there are who try to change the situation, the more likely it is that change will come.

**Women, like men, should try to do the impossible. And when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others.**

- Being a women shouldn't make a difference to trying to make your dream happen – if you fail, the fact that you tried should inspire and challenge others.

**No kind action ever stops with itself....A single act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees.**

- Kindness grows kindness. *[this may be the easiest quote for younger children]*

**Slide 12: What inspires us about Amelia Earhart?** *There are some ideas on the slide for you to talk about with pupils, including a blank one at the end for you to add your own ideas. Allow pupils to suggest examples from the story of her life that show these qualities*

- **Courage**
- **Perseverance**
- **Encouragement**
- **Commitment**
- **Sense of adventure**
- **?**

**Slide 13: Responding (and words for worship):**

About 1900 years before Amelia Earhart was born, another great adventurer, the Apostle Paul (whose story we will share in a few weeks!) wrote these words about the importance of encouragement:

**....encourage one another and build each other up....  
(1 Thessalonians 5:11)**



Paul wrote these words to one of the very first churches, who were also living in challenging times. He wanted to remind them of the power of encouragement in helping their community to grow.



Encouragement is important to our community too. I wonder what encouraging words you could think of right now? *[if time allows, you might ask pupils to share ideas: you may need to give a few examples to get them going!]*

**Slide 14:** Let's be quiet and still now as we bring our time together to a close. We've been thinking today about the life and adventures of Amelia Earhart and how they inspired and encouraged others to reach for their dreams.

....I wonder how her story might have encouraged you today?....  
....I wonder how we might encourage one another in our words and in our actions?.....  
....I wonder how our encouragement might help others to achieve their dreams?.....

**Slide 15: Prayer [based on Paul's words to the Thessalonians]**

I am going to use the Apostle Paul's words now in a prayer. There is a part that you can join in with if you would like to.

**May we encourage and build each other up.**

**Slide 16:** In the words that we speak

**May we encourage and build each other up.**

**Slide 17:** In the actions that we take

**May we encourage and build each other up.**

**Slide 18:** On all of life's journey,

**May we encourage and build each other up.**

**Slide 19: Amen**

**Sending:**

**Slide 20: Use this term's leaving words**



**Leader:** We have journeyed together today.

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

**ALL: ...May God go with us.**

Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



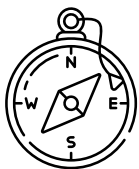
Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

**To sing / listen to:**

[Build up](#) (BBC)

[Never give up](#) (POP UK)

[Resilience in me](#) (NBD)



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**Ideas for classroom reflection: Encouragement cards**

Take a blank encouragement card

Talk together about the things you find encouraging about Amelia Earhart's life and her example. How did she encourage others?

Think about someone who might need encouraging this week.

Write them a card with some helpful, encouraging words. Don't forget to give it to them!

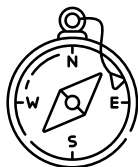


'To boldly go.....!'

**4. Adventure - for the fun of it!!!**

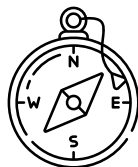
Print these cards out for your reflective area

An encouragement for you.



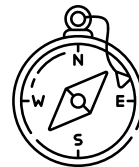
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An encouragement for you.



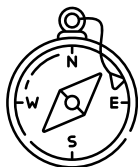
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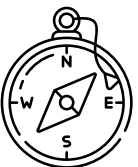
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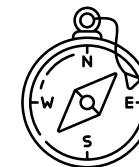
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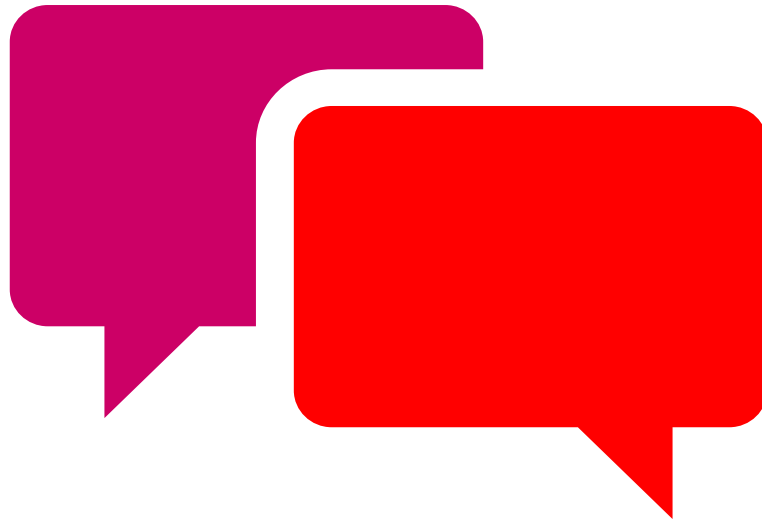
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'To boldly go.....!'

4. Adventure - for the fun of it!!





**....encourage one another and  
build each other up....**

*(1 Thessalonians 5:11)*

***In her lifetime, Amelia Earhart encouraged many other women to reach for their dreams. Her story has been an encouragement for many others since who want to make a difference in the world.***

***Take a blank card from the reflective area***



**Talk together about the things you find encouraging about Amelia Earhart's life and her example. How did she encourage others?**



**Think about someone who might need encouraging this week. This could be someone in school, or someone at home.**



**Write them a card with some helpful, encouraging words. Don't forget to give it to them!**

