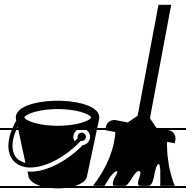




6. Humility



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 some important words of Jesus in the ‘Sermon on the Mount’, which Christians call the ‘Beatitudes’. We are using some of the wider themes in Jesus’ words to help us to think about the attitudes we have towards each other – and the ways in which your own school’s vision and values helps to shape this into your community.



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

Many of the qualities expressed in Jesus’ words will be familiar values for your school community, so we encourage you to link each week’s collective worship to your school vision – and the way that you live this out through your values. Today we are thinking about Jesus’ words about being humble. There is also opportunity for you to talk together about the difference between being rightly pleased with something you have done well, and being arrogant.

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.
- **There are also some ideas for reflective activities / ideas to ponder for use in your reflective areas for this term, listed at the end of the script along with a handy wall chart to print each week for your reflective area. You can find all these as a separate file in our resources area, which may make it easier for teachers to print and use in their classrooms.**
- **Reflective prayer activity:** this week, create a display of cleaning tools e.g. washing up bowl, washing up brush, car washing sponge, duster etc. A toilet brush (brand new) elicits quite a response! NB *These need to be new or very clean with no cleaning products included.* You could also include a display of pictures of people doing unpleasant jobs and helping others. There are some statements on p4 which you could put into your reflective area or write your own!

Gathering:

Slide 1: Use these gathering words, which will be the same each week.



- **Leader: We are here together**
- **ALL: May our attitudes make our school community a happy place today.**

Engaging:

- **Slide 2:** We are thinking this term about our ‘How-to-be-attitudes’ – ways of behaving together as part of our school community, ways that will make us happy, based on the lesson Jesus taught on the mountainside. We’ll come to today’s words in a moment, but we’re going to start our time together today with a story.
- **Slide 3:** Jesus loved to meet people wherever he went. He often told them stories called parables to help them to understand big ideas about God and what’s important to him. One day, he met some men who were very sure of themselves, and looked down on everyone else, so he told them this parable....
- **Slide 4: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector**
- Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, a very religious man, and the other a tax collector.
- **Slide 5:** The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed. He looked around him to make sure that everyone was listening, then this is what he said: ‘Father God, I am so glad that I am not like other people – robbers and thieves, but especially not like this man, a tax collector and a sinner.’ As he said this, he pointed towards the other man who was standing in the shadows, with his head bowed. ‘I am a very good person: I go without food twice a week as a holy fast, and give away a tenth of all that I earn.’
- **Slide 6:** The other man could hardly lift his head up, he felt so alone and so ashamed. He was indeed a tax collector, and he had cheated people out of their money, but he was sorry, so sorry for the things he had done and so he prayed ‘I am such a sinner. I’m no good. God, please forgive me.’
- **Slide 7:** At the end of the story, Jesus told his listeners which man’s prayer had pleased God. Before we answer that question, let’s just have a look at our ‘How-to-be-attitudes’ words for today....
- **Slide 8:** In the Lesson on the Mountain, Jesus said: **‘Those who are humble will be truly happy. The earth will belong to them.’** [Talk for a few moments about the word ‘humble’ – and what it means.



Children may be able to work this out from the context of the story, so give them time to do so. You could also talk about the adjectives that you might choose to describe the Pharisee, especially the words 'proud' (in the wrong sense) or arrogant. You might also want to tease out the difference between being rightly proud of something that we have done well and arrogant, where our pride gets out of hand and makes others feel small.]

Slide 9: Responding and words for worship

So now let's bring our thoughts together and reflect on what we might have learned from this parable of Jesus – and how it might help us to understand Jesus' words about being 'humble' – our

'How-to-be-attitude' for this week....

....I wonder which of the prayers in our story pleased God more?.....

....I wonder which man was 'humble'?....

....I wonder what being 'humble' might look like in our school?....

I'm going to use some words to pray now. If this is something that you would like to do, then find a way to make these words yours....

Slide 10: Prayer

God of the humble

Thank you that you encourage us to be like you, to be humble and not arrogant. We want to be pleased with the good things that we do, but not in a way that makes other people feel small. Please help us, we pray.

Slide 11: Amen

Sending: Slide 12

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

All: *May we live humbly today.*

To listen to / sing:

[Build up](#) (BBC) [I'll hold on](#) (POP UK)

Slide 13: Reflective areas



Create a display of cleaning tools e.g. washing up bowl, washing brush, car washing sponge, duster etc. A toilet brush (brand new) elicits quite a response! NB *These need to be new or very clean with no cleaning products included* You could also include a display of pictures of people doing unpleasant jobs and helping others. Print out the action cards on p.4 – you could cut them up for pupils to take away as a reminder.





...Jesus said to the people **'Those who are humble will be truly happy.'** Being humble means putting other people first and yourself at the back of the line, recognising that you are not the most important person in the room.



Look at the things that people use to do cleaning and at the pictures of people doing some of the dirty, smelly jobs, or helping others. Would you choose to do those jobs?



How might doing these things help you to be 'humble'?



Look at some of the suggestions for how to make others feel special. Choose one that you could do and take action!



Primary suggestions

Chat with someone outside your usual friendship group today.	Surprise someone today. In a nice way.
Say something nice about someone behind their back.	Send a message, picture or card to an adult who is important to you.
Say thank you to one of the adults in school today. Remember to include the people who don't work in a classroom.	Offer to help an adult at home or at school today.
Thank the person who cooks your food today and offer to help clear up. This might be at home or at school.	Compliment someone on their work today

