



## 9. Heroes of Hope – Who is my neighbour?.....

**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, serving the needs of our unique school contexts. We continue this term's theme of **'Shine Like Stars!'** with a short series based on the new publication **'Heroes of Hope'** (which we hope all of our Church schools have a copy of, courtesy of the Church of England). Like Daniel, the 22 'heroes' in this book lived in challenging times, and demonstrated in *their* actions how to 'shine like stars', standing up for what is right and good in a world that often didn't reflect this. In our world today, we want to inspire resilience in our pupils to be confident in who they are and what they stand for, just like these heroes, and to be positive role models in your school community, even when it might be difficult. **This week, we introduce another story from the Heroes of Hope book: the story of Toyohiko Kagawa, who loved the parable of the Good Samaritan, and lived his life by its values. If you have decided to take part in the Big Plastic Count, from 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March, then you might wish to highlight this at the start of your time together, using slide 20 from last week's PPT.**



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

This week, as we think about the life of Toyohiko Kagawa who worked to build up his community – and his country – we create an opportunity to reflect on things that might 'build up' your school community and make it strong. Your school vision and values will most likely be an integral part of their understanding.

### Resources:

- **NB The 'Heroes of Hope' book that we refer to is available for free for all Church schools: for those schools in the Diocese of Guildford who have not collected their copy, please contact [jane.whittington@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:jane.whittington@cofeguildford.org.uk) or come into Church House and we will be very happy to give you your copy. Additional copies are available from SPCK: [Heroes of Hope - Sharon Prentis | Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde - SPCK Publishing](#) We are very grateful to the illustrators (Daniela Gamba, Neda Kazemifar, Anastasia Magloire Williams and Jen Khatun) and to SPCK for granting us permission to use some of the illustrations from the book for these resources. Please respect the artists' rights and do not share these images other than within these collective worship resources.**
- **Please remember that the resources that we provide should be adapted where needed, to suit the context of your own school and your own pupils.**
- This term, in addition to our usual gathering and sending slides, we are including a slide at the very start to help to 'still' pupils, and help them to enter into the 'sacred' space of collective worship, ready to think, reflect, talk or pray. You might also want to use this in your class to change the 'mood' for any class-based worship. Take this at whatever pace seems necessary for your pupils. It ends with a visual 'timetable', setting out some of the elements that will be included in our time together, which we hope may help some pupils. You can also find these as cards to print out to use in other collective worship if this helps you.
- As always, 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.
- 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.
- **Reflective prayer activity:** you will need some Lego® bricks, or similar construction materials. If you have younger children in your class, you might want to start the building of a wall for them to add their brick to.

### Gathering:

#### Slide 1: Rising hearts stilling exercise

*Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.*

As you sit quietly, watch the hearts rising....[PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....keep this going as you continue to look at the hearts....[PAUSE]

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....[PAUSE]

As you breathe, think back to the acts of kindness that you may have experienced last week..... [PAUSE]

How did it feel to receive them.....and to give them? [PAUSE]

We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we will **begin with a mystery, share a story and then use it to help us to think.**



But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....

**Slide 2:**

**Leader: As we gather together today....**

**ALL: ....we bring our thoughts and our hearts into this sacred space.**

**Engaging:**

**Slide 3: A mystery story....in 3 panels**

We're going to start with a mystery. I wonder if you can identify this story from 3 pictures and three short sentences?....

**A merchant travelled to a distant city.  
On the way he was robbed and beaten.  
A stranger saw him and stopped to help.**

So, what's the story – and can you help with any missing parts? [e.g. two other people didn't stop, but the Samaritan bathed his wounds and took him to an inn to be cared for until he was better again.]

I wonder if anyone can remember the really important question that a man asked Jesus, before he told this parable? [ask some children]

That's right, the question was **Who is my neighbour?**

Jesus often used parables to help him to teach others about what's important in the Kingdom of God and for thousands of years, these timeless stories have helped people to think about what this means for them, in their time and in their culture....and the Parable of the Good Samaritan is no exception....

**Slide 4:** This is just a small selection of art by artists across the world, each of them showing the kind stranger in the story, but reflecting their own culture and their own time. The oldest one **here**, is believed to date from just 500 years after the birth of Jesus.

**Slide 5:** This parable was a favourite story of today's Hero of Hope – and, in a moment, after we hear a bit about his life, you might understand why. This is Toyohiko Kagawa, born in the city of Kobe, in Japan, which is why you can also see his name written in Japanese! Here is Japan on our map:

**Slide 6: World map**

**Slide 7:** Toyohiko Kagawa is honoured in Japan for his faithful commitment to the poor and his work to change their world for the better, and was given the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest honour, the **Order of the Sacred Treasure**, after his death in 1960. Toyohiko believed that, as a Christian, it was important to take action on behalf of the poor, often quoting Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. He also showed this in how he lived his life and lived in one of the poorest areas of Kobe so that he could work with his neighbours to help improve their living and working conditions.

**Slide 8:** One of Toyohiko's best ideas involved planting walnut trees, not just to provide food for the people, but also to help feed the pigs and other animals that they farmed. His project changed how people thought about farming at that time.

When WWII broke out, his beliefs about living peacefully with others made him very unpopular, but he did all he could to promote peace wherever he went. When the war ended, Toyohiko again got to work, helping to rebuild Japan as an adviser to the Japanese government, to ensure that everyone worked together for a more peaceful and harmonious future, founded on love and respect for all.

Earlier, we heard what Jesus said at the end of the parable: **Then go and live like this!** Toyohiko did exactly this in his life, believing that **'It is not enough to have ideals. We must translate them into action.'** [You may need to explain this further to younger pupils] I wonder how we might do this this week?

Toyohiko Kagawa was also a prolific writer throughout his life, writing books and poems about his ideas, thoughts and experiences. We're going to hear one of his poems now, called Discovery....

**Slide 9: Discovery, a poem by Toyohiko Kagawa** [read from script on p4: you will re-read the very end section as part of the reflection]

I wonder what you think these words mean? Poems aren't always easy to understand, so don't worry if you're not sure! In the words of this poem, Toyohiko is thinking to himself and feeling a little bit



disappointed that his life doesn't involve creating great inventions or building fantastic machines, until a very special thought comes to him, like a streak of gold. The thought is that he can use his hands to help others – as a Christian, he believes that this is part of God's 'secret plan' for him. Listen again to those most important words in the poem:

**God, Who dwells in my hand,  
Knows this secret plan  
Of the things He will do for the world  
Using my hand!**

I wonder what you think about these words? Think quietly to yourself while I read them a second time....  
*[read slowly, then leave a pause for children to think]*

**Slide 10: Responding and words for worship [NB There are no words on the screen this week]**

As you sit now, open your hands and rest them in your lap. Your hands are unique, as is the life that you live. Keep looking at your hands as we think.....*[leave pauses between each phrase]*



I wonder what you think of as you look at your hands?  
....think about all the things that they will be doing today.....  
.....working.....playing.....helping.....caring.....

.....I wonder how your hands might be used to support others today?.....

.....I wonder how God might dwell in *your* hand?...or how he might reach others through the actions of *your* hands?....

Now as you sit quietly, you might want to turn your thoughts into a prayer – or just carry on thinking quietly to yourself.

*[leave pause before continuing]*

Now, turn your hands over and rest them on your knees as we end this time, or as the 'Amen' to your prayer.

As you go about your day, and this week, maybe your hands will help to build our school community.....!

**Sending: Slide 11**

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

**All:** *May we shine like stars!*



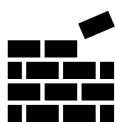
**Pupils' response:**

Shine: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/shine> (4<sup>th</sup> video); Stars: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/stars> (4<sup>th</sup> video)

**To listen to / sing:**

[Build up](#) (BBC)

OR: Listen to, then sing the Fischy Music song for Christian Aid, [Speak up](#)



**Slide 12: Reflective areas**

Put Lego® bricks, or similar construction bricks in your reflective areas this week. If you have younger children in your class, you might want start the building of a wall for them to add their brick to.

**Toyohiko Kagawa was honoured by his country as someone who tried to build up his community.**

**Think:** What sorts of things 'build up' your school community and make it strong? Think of one thing that you might do this week.

**Do:** Take a brick and add it to the wall. If you want to, ask God to help you to build your community.

**Talk:** Talk about your ideas together.

**We also encourage you to explore the full story of Toyohiko Kagawa from the book during the week.**



Shine like stars!

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## DISCOVERY by Toyohiko Kagawa

I cannot invent  
New things,  
Like the airships  
Which sail  
On silver wings;  
But today  
A wonderful thought  
In the dawn was given,  
And the stripes on my robe,  
Shining from wear,  
Were suddenly fair,  
Bright with a light  
Falling from Heaven—  
Gold, and silver, and bronze  
Lights from the windows of Heaven!

And the thought  
Was this:  
That a secret plan  
Is hid in my hand;  
That my hand is big,  
Big,  
Because of this plan.

That God,  
Who dwells in my hand,  
Knows this secret plan  
Of the things He will do for the world  
Using my hand!



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# Building community

Toyohiko Kagawa was honoured by his country as someone who tried to build up his community.



What sorts of things 'build up' your school community and make it strong?

Think of one thing that you might do this week.



Take a brick and add it to the wall. If you want to, ask God to help you to build your community.



Talk about your ideas together.

