

10. Hiding place

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. We use the image of God as a safe refuge – David called him a 'fortress' – for this week's materials and revisit the times in David's life when he knew God's protection.*

In the context of this week's material, children may choose to talk about people who are 'safe' or 'unsafe' for them – and again, any disclosures should 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 focus is on David finding a safe place in God's presence – even when his life was quite challenging. We hope that your school is viewed by children as a safe space, and/or a place where they might find God

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 a few options for the opening discussion slide: choose which you prefer.**
- The reflective activity for this week is an outdoors one, so there are no resources for your class area this week. Take photos whilst you are out and make a display in your classroom though, using the words from David's Psalm, and use the reflection card to generate thinking as a follow-up. It will also benefit next week's collective worship to have been outdoors, immersed in the natural world this week!

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: Hide and seek**

Choose, either:



- *Hide some objects for children to find in a game of hide and seek around your hall space.*
- *Bring in a sand tray and hide some objects for children to discover – make it into a timed challenge to keep it short!*
- *Pairs discussion: talk about the best place you ever found to hide when playing hide and seek. What made it such a good place?*
- *Set a whole school challenge: hide a favourite soft toy somewhere; whoever finds it gets to be the next person to hide it. What was the best hiding place?*

What do we like about playing this game?

- **Slide 5: Songs from the heart**

We've heard many of David's words from the Psalms (recap some that children can remember)

Today's words again reflect the experience that David had of God's care of him....



But first, we're going to play a game of hide and seek with what's going on in some pictures from David's life, rather than have a story this week!

As we click through the slides, we'll only see a very small part of the picture – and we'll have to talk together to see if we can work out what's going on. Just to warn you, some will be easier than others!!
[and for teachers, there are some words to guide your discussions]

Let's begin with a practice – what can we see here?.....

- **Slide 6:** [NB this is an image that will be helpful later on, so not a completely random choice!]

What can we see through the little peephole?

Let's make it a bit wider....is it a bit easier to see now?

What are we looking at?

I wonder how this might make someone feel safe? [ask a few children to explain their thinking. It might have something to do with historical knowledge about why castles / fortresses were built, or just that it looks somewhere safe – they might reference images from films e.g. Harry Potter]

Back in history, castles were a way of keeping people safe when they were under attack (which happened a lot!). When attackers came, they would run into the castle and be safe – because they were built to do this!

- **Slide 7:** David fights the bear and lion

What can we see through the little peephole?

Let's make it a bit wider....is it a bit easier to see now? What are we looking at?

What is David doing with the lion and the bear?

Why was this a dangerous thing to do?

[give children time to talk together]

David's reaction to this event was to say: **I don't fear, because God is here!!**

- **Slide 8:** David fights Goliath

What can we see through the little peephole?

Which part of David's life story is this from? [hopefully this one is obvious!]

Let's see if you're right!....

[recap how God kept David safe against Goliath]

Again, David's reaction to this event was to say: **I don't fear, because God is here!!**

- **Slide 9:** Saul tries to capture David

What can we see through the little peephole?

What is happening here? Who are the men with spears, and what might they be going to do?

Let's see if you're right!....

King Saul was very jealous of David, and one story tells how he sent soldiers to try to capture David and kill him.

- **Slide 10:** the soldiers find David's hiding place

What can we see through the little peephole?

King Saul's soldiers were on the hunt for David, who hid in a cave. The story tells of how King Saul came into the cave where David was hiding, but miraculously, didn't see David!

Again, David's reaction to this event was to say: **I don't fear, because God is here!!**

- **Slide 11:** I will say to the Lord, "You are my place of safety and protection. You are my God, and I trust you." *Psalm 91:2*

So now, perhaps it's a bit easier to see how David was able to write these words about God.

David also wrote in another Psalm: **You are my hiding place. You protect me from my troubles.**

- **Slide 12:** We heard last week that David felt that God was especially close when he was experiencing difficulties in his life.

- **Slide 13:** David's words in these Psalms show such trust and faith in God, because he had known God be so close to him during sad or difficult times in his life.

Slide 14: Responding (and words for worship):

Let's be still and quiet together now, and think about the things we've heard today. For God's people, the words that David wrote are like precious treasure, reminding them that God is the



same; he never changes and therefore he can be trusted at all times. In the story, we heard David say the words **'I don't fear, because God is here!!'**

You might have experienced this yourselves, in your family, maybe when something might have frightened you and you ran to your mum or dad, or a place where you felt safe. *[you might want to pause here and share some stories, or give children a few moments of stillness to think about this for themselves]*

Slide 15: We've heard today how David experienced God as his place of safety in life. He wrote:

You are my hiding place.

You protect me from my troubles.

Let's wonder together for a few moments now....

.... I wonder what you think about David's words?....

....I wonder where you go to when life is hard....the safe place for your soul?....

....I wonder how David's words might be a comfort to people at difficult times?....

Slide 16: Prayer

Instead of saying a prayer today, we are going to use a song – which by now, you will all probably know! The words are based on another psalm written by King David, and speak of how God never sleeps, so is always able to watch over people [in a good way!]. If you want to look at these words during the week, you can find them here: [Psalm 121 ICB - The Lord Guards His People - A song for - Bible Gateway](#)

If you would prefer to just listen rather than sing and pray, then please do! *[screen image links to the song]*

Slide 17: Amen

To sing / listen to:

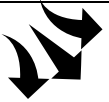
[God is watching](#) (BBC)



Sending: Slide 18

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**.



Signs for response: click on links

Thoughts: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - thought \(signbsl.com\)](#)

Words (use 3rd definition): [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - word \(signbsl.com\)](#)

Actions: [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - action \(signbsl.com\)](#)



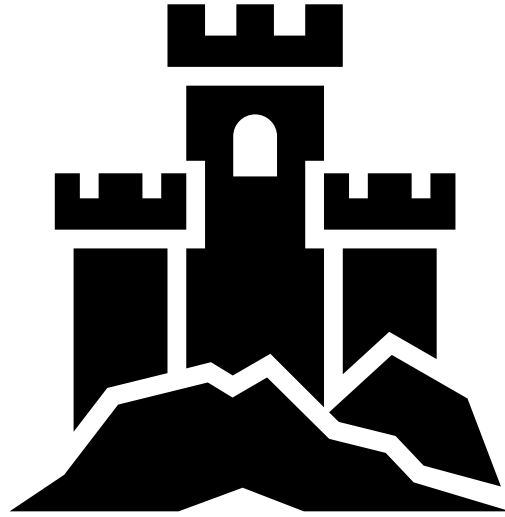
Ideas for classroom reflection: Hide and seek

Go outdoors this week and find some really great hiding places for different types of wildlife e.g. if you have a pond area, can you spot tadpoles hiding under pondweed, or bugs hiding under logs to keep them damp. Don't forget to keep them safe!! There are some great ideas and examples here: [Psalm 91 Muddy Church: God's Protection](#)



There are no activities indoors this week, but there is a reflection card to put in your classroom reflection space based on your outdoor activity!





***David wrote these words: 'You are my hiding place.
You protect me from my troubles.'***



Go outdoors this week – and find some things that are really well hidden. (Or play hide and seek at playtimes!)



**How were the things you found being kept safe?
Where do you feel most safe and protected?**



You might want to talk to someone you trust about how you feel.

