

10. Blessed are those who mourn... (Remembrance)

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. *You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. **This assembly marks the act of remembering, in its annual place in schools’ collective worship for ‘Poppy Day’. Use this script on November 11th, or near to Remembrance Sunday, November 10th. This assembly reminds us to be grateful for the peace that we enjoy, but also to show compassion for those whose lives have been changed forever because of war. The resources support children to think with compassion about other places in the world that they might know of where peace is absent. You may want to talk about this at another time. There are also resources on the Royal British Legion website, including a sound file of the Last Post, usually played to mark the start of the 2 minutes’ silence, which you may want to use.***



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 recognising that sad times are a part of life, and that we can show compassion for others, especially during this special time of remembrance.

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. Because of the photos included this week, a screen is the best option for this collective worship.
- You will need 6 poppies to make 6 poppy ‘actions for compassion’ using the cards on p.4 and attaching a poppy to the top of each. You could ‘plant’ them into an indoor garden tray if you have one. You might want to leave more poppies for children to ‘plant’ as they think about being compassionate this week.
- 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, you will need a red or blue cloth (red, like the poppies or blue, for sadness) and some glass beads to represent tears. There are some further suggestions at the bottom of this script.

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:** I wonder how these people are feeling? [show images on slide, one by one] As human beings, one of the things we value most in each other is the ability to know how someone else is feeling – and being able be happy when they are happy, but especially to comfort them if they are sad. We call this being **compassionate**.
- **Slide 3:** Jesus also valued this quality, and said it’s important in God’s Kingdom. We’ll find out more about this a little later....
- **Slide 4:** Although most of us would say that we do not enjoy being sad, experiencing this emotion helps us to learn this important skill of compassion in coming alongside others, especially when they are feeling sad.
- **Slide 5:** This week, we have an opportunity to do this on a very special day in the life of our nation – and other nations across the world. **‘Poppy Day’** or more correctly, Armistice Day, is a reminder to us to simply **‘remember’**.



- **Slide 6:** Since the end of the Great War (also known as WW1) in 1918, which people said was the ‘war to end all wars’, poppies have become a symbol for this act of remembering and being thankful.
- **Slide 7:** Here, you can see our very own Guildford Cathedral, full of poppies, to mark 100 years since the First World War ended in 1918.
- **Slide 8:** We **remember** the many acts of courage, selflessness and service of those who fought in past wars, and think about **those who are still doing so**. (The 2 servicemen featured on screen are Lance Corporal William Coltman and 2nd Lieutenant Walter Tull, whose stories we have told in previous resources)
- **Slide 9:** We **remember** by wearing a poppy which helps us to show that we are grateful.
- **Slide 10:** But it’s also a time when we **remember** that war brings great sadness, especially for those who have lost people or places that they love. So, Remembrance Day also gives us a chance to show compassion towards those who might be feeling sad.
- **Slide 11:** The peace that we enjoy in our country was won at a very great cost, but as some of you might know, there are other places around the world where they do not yet have peace. And so, we can also show compassion by remembering these places this year. We will do this as we have an opportunity to pray in a little while.
- **Slide 12:** Each Remembrance Day we hear these words, originally from a poem called ‘For the Fallen’ (by Lawrence Binyon): **‘At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them’**, to which people respond with the words **‘We will remember them’** These are very solemn (serious) words because they contain a promise to remember. But they also contain a challenge for each day: to show in our everyday actions that we are grateful, that we are not taking our lives for granted – and that we too want to make a difference in the world.
- **Slide 13:** So I wonder whether we might also try to *do something* to show we are remembering with compassion? I have 6 special poppies here with 6 different ideas for showing compassion to others. Let’s look at them together [*read and display poppies*] You might want to add to this ‘poppy garden’ if you think of more ideas during this week.
- **Slide 14:** Now as we begin to draw our time to a close, let’s listen to the words of Jesus for this week. They might just be the most topsy-turvy yet!!: **‘Those who are sad are truly happy, because God will comfort them.’**I wonder how it might feel to be ‘comforted by God’?....[*You might want to spend a short while talking about what children think this means*]
- Changing the words around might help us to understand this a little better!.... **‘Those who are sad will be comforted by God, so they can be truly happy.’** [*talk again if you need to*] As we’ve said in previous weeks, Jesus often said things that were difficult to understand! What he was *not saying* here is that people shouldn’t be sad when hard times come. Jesus experienced great sadness in his own life and knew how it felt. But what he wanted the people to realise was that they could bring their sadness to God, who cared deeply about them, so they are not alone in that sadness.
- **Slide 15:** For people who are Christians, this means that they can bring any sadness in their lives, however big or small, knowing that God cares about it and can bring them comfort – and that this is a good thing. That’s the ‘truly happy’ bit! In another part of the Bible, he is called the God of all comfort’. Listen to these words: **‘He is the God of all comfort: all comfort comes from God. He comforts us in all our troubles. Now we can comfort others when they are in trouble.’**
- So, there’s something that others can do to bring comfort to those who need it, even if all it means is sitting with someone whilst they are sad. This is something that can help us all.

Slide 16: Responding (and words for worship): you might also wish to hold your own period of silence at this point.

....Let’s be still and quiet together now....

....we’ve heard words today about remembering with compassion.....

....we’ve also heard Jesus’ topsy-turvy words about God’s comfort....



....in the quietness of this moment, you might want to bring into your mind someone who is feeling sad and needs your compassion, or the comfort that God can bring....

....it might be that you want to think especially about those in our world whose lives are affected by war, or who may be feeling sad this Remembrance Day....

Slide 17: God of all comfort

Thank you for those who gave their lives for our freedom

'We will remember them'

Slide 18: As we wear our poppies this year

'We will remember them'

Slide 19: As we think of places where peace is hard to find

'We will remember them'

Slide 20: As we show compassion to those around us

'We will remember them'

Slide 21: At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them

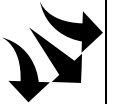
'We will remember them'

Slide 22: Amen

Sending: Slide 23

Leader: As we leave this place and time....

All: 'We will remember them' – and live with compassion.



To listen to:

[Peace is flowing](#), from BBC Assemblies resources

Or you could return to the excerpts from Karl Jenkins' piece The Armed Man, from last week.



Slide 24: Reflective areas

This week, you will need a red or blue cloth (red, like the poppies or blue, for sadness) and some glass beads to represent tears. Children can place a glass bead on the cloth as they think or pray about people who are sad. Or you could plant a poppy garden of compassionate actions, which you started in the collective worship.

You could also set up a Remembrance themed 'prayer space' using the suggestions from Prayer Spaces in Schools. Try [Remembrance Ribbons](#), [Dove of Peace](#) or [Poppy Prayers](#). Although perhaps more suitable for Juniors, the ideas could be adapted for KS1 by inviting them to hang a ribbon, or write a prayer in a dove outline or on a poppy, to gather in your own 'Field of Remembrance' in your reflective area.



A great book which picks up on this theme, written for anyone (religious or non-religious) is 'The Grief Jar' by Lynsey Shaw. It gives some really helpful messages to children about sitting with sadness. Pack your tissues – find out more here [The Grief Jar - a Creative & Arts crowdfunding project in Plymouth by Lynsey Shaw \(crowdfunder.co.uk\)](#) and buy it here: <https://www.bearandgoosedesigns.co.uk/childrens-books/the-grief-jar/>



Print these out onto card to make labels for your 6 poppies:

**chat with someone
who is feeling lonely
today**

**look out for anyone
who is feeling sad**

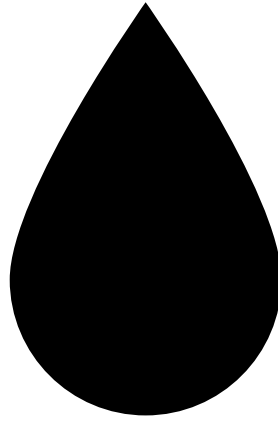
**notice if someone
needs help**

**wear a poppy to
show you are
remembering**

**pray for peace in
our world**

help your family





...Jesus was a great teacher.....

...He told the people to bring their sadness to God.



I wonder if you know someone who is sad at the moment? Take a glass bead and hold it in your hand.



You might need to talk to the person who is sad so they know you care, or talk to someone who can help.



Now put the bead onto the cloth as a way of asking for God's comfort for that person.

