



# 12. Joy!

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 reflects on the rewards outlined by Jesus as part of the Beatitudes, which perhaps make them less topsy-turvy?!***



### 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 joy being the reward of living according to the Beatitudes.

### 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 to print the large 'coin' shapes included with the resources on p.5-12, so that they work double-sided. These will recap all that's been said during this series.
- \*Today's script contains a parable that Jesus told about three servants. The version in the script is short, but there is a longer version on p3-4 that you dramatise if you wanted to. If you do, be careful to explain that you are not really cross with the child who plays the third servant!
- **The section in red contains some challenging words, related to the things that Jesus said about following him being costly – and not always easy. These words were for his followers, who are now the Christian community, which of course not everyone in your school is a part of. We have phrased this carefully to ensure that the wording is inclusive and does not undermine the views and beliefs of those who are not Christians.**
- **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 some paper cut into triangles, to make into bunting.

### Gathering:

- **Slide 1:** We've arrived at the finale of our series finding out about Jesus' words in the 'Beatitudes' – the how-to-be- attitudes, as we've been calling them. Next week, we will begin on our journey to Christmas.... So for one last time, let's use our greeting for this series:
- **Slide 2: Leader: We are here together**  
**ALL: May our attitudes make our school community a happy place today.**



### Engaging:

- **Slide 3:** I wonder what you'd choose as a reward for something you'd done well? Talk to the person next to you for a few moments – then we'll share some ideas.
- In a short while, we'll find out what Jesus had to say about rewards in the Beatitudes, but first, we're going to use a very short story – a parable that Jesus told, in fact!
- **Slide 4\*:** It's a parable about some servants who were rewarded by their master. The master gave them each some money and asked them to use their skills and his money wisely. Two of the servants worked hard and doubled their profits, but the third servant was rather lazy. He was frightened that he might lose the money and so dug a hole in the ground and buried the money until his master returned. On his return, the Master said these words to the first two servants: **'Well done, you are a good and faithful servant – you have used your money and your talents responsibly. You have shown me you can take care of a little, so I will put you in charge of many things. I am very pleased with you!'** As you might imagine, the master was not too pleased with the third servant!



- **I wonder what you think the message of this story is?** Talk for a few moments again to the person next to you and then we'll share what you think again.
- **Slide 5:** The master in the story gave each of the three servants a chance to invest his money and their skills wisely – and each servant had the same choice: to work hard, or not. **I wonder what message this story might have for us in school?**
- **Slide 6:** During these last few weeks, we've been thinking about Jesus' words in the Beatitudes, and what they show us about the things that are important in God's kingdom. I wonder if you can remember some of these important values?.....*[allow time for responses]*
- Jesus said that living in these ways would bring a little bit of God's kingdom here to earth. I don't know whether you noticed, but each one of the Beatitudes came with a 'reward'.
- **Slide 7:** Let's look together, using our own 'reward' coins! *[use the coins you printed, starting with the 'heads' side]* These rewards that Jesus spoke of might *not* always come here on earth, because the last few words he spoke in the Beatitudes say:
- **Slide 8: Rejoice and be glad. You have a great reward waiting for you in heaven.**  
 Jesus explained that it would not always be easy for people who follow him to live out God's kingdom values, who try to bring a little bit of his Kingdom to earth. Like the two servants in Jesus' parable, it might mean some hard work! Jesus explained to his followers that people around them might not understand or appreciate what they are doing. When things are hard, Jesus wanted his followers to know that their great reward would be the joy of heaven – and to keep on going, to persevere, with joy in their hearts, knowing what they have to look forward to.  
 These are difficult words, but we all know that sometimes the difficult things in life bring the greatest rewards!

**Slide 9: Responding (and words for worship):**

Let's be still and quiet together now and think about Jesus' words, and the rewards he spoke of....

....I wonder why difficult things might bring the greatest joy?....

....I wonder what 'joy in heaven' might be like?....

....I wonder what challenges you might have heard today – and across this term?....

....I wonder which might benefit your school community the most?....



Now I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer. If you agree with what I'm saying and would like to make the prayer your own, then you can join with me when I say 'Amen' at the end.

**Slide 10: Prayer**

Dear God

Thank you for these challenging words that have reminded us of the things that are important to you – and that these things bring the greatest rewards. Help us to try to live out the 'How-to-be-attitudes' in our school community.

**Slide 11: Amen**

**Sending: Slide 12**

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

**All:** ....*may joy be our great reward.*



**To sing:** [Give me oil in my lamp](#) (joy in my heart!) (BBC)



**Slide 13: Reflective areas**

This week, you will need some paper triangles and some string to make into coloured bunting. Write onto the triangles some thoughts about 'joy in heaven', things that bring you joy or about any of the 'How-to-be-attitudes that have especially challenged you. You could leave the coin cards out to help remind children. Use the guided questions on the reflection card to help you.



## The servants who invested wisely

Once there lived a master who decided to go on holiday to a far-away country. He packed his suitcase and called his servants to him. He had three servants. To the first servant he gave **£50** and told them:

"Look after all I own until I return and use this money responsibly"

To the second servant he gave **£20** (*count money*) and said:

"Look after all I own until I return and use this money responsibly"

To the third servant he gave **£10** (*count money*) and told them:

"Look after all I own until I return and use this money responsibly"

Then off he went on his long holiday. The three servants thought long and hard about what they should do with their master's money.

The first servant thought "I would like to make my master pleased with me", so went out and bought a small farm. Because the servant worked hard, the business did well. By selling milk from the cows and goats and eggs from the hens, the first servant made **twice as much**. (*Ask if anyone knows how much that would be - £100*)

The second servant thought "I would like to make my master pleased with me", so went out and bought a small fishing boat with the money. Because they worked hard, the business did well. By selling the fish, the 2<sup>nd</sup> servant made **twice as much**. (*Ask if anyone knows how much that would be - £40*)

The third servant didn't do so well and was too lazy to use the money to buy anything. The servant was afraid they might lose the money, so they hid the money where no-one would find it.

After a long time, the master returned from his holiday and called his servants to him. This is what he said to them: "Go and bring me the money I gave you to look after."

So, the first servant returned with the money that they had earned. The master was pleased and said:

"£100! Well done, you are a good and faithful servant -- you have used your money and your talents responsibly. You have shown me you can take care of a little, so I will put you in charge of many things. I am very pleased with you!"

Then the second servant returned with their money. The master was pleased and said:

"£40! Well done, you are a good and faithful servant -- you have used your money and your talents responsibly. You have shown me you can take care



of a little, so I will put you in charge of many things. I am very pleased with you!"

Then the third servant gave him the money that had been kept hidden. To him the master said: "You are a lazy and wicked servant. You could have at least put my money in the bank where it would earn me some interest. Give your money to my first servant because they will use it responsibly. Now leave my house and do not return!"



Rewards: print these double-sided onto yellow or gold card.  
The page following is designed to print on the back.



Rewards: print these onto yellow or gold card

**The earth  
belongs  
to you.**

**God will  
call you  
his  
children.**



Rewards: print these double-sided onto yellow or gold card.  
The page following is designed to print on the back.



Rewards: print these onto yellow or gold card

**the  
kingdom of  
heaven  
belongs to  
you.**

**God will  
comfort  
you.**





Rewards: print these double-sided onto yellow or gold card.  
The page following is designed to print on the back.



**Do what  
is right  
and fair.**



**Give  
forgiveness  
to others.**



Rewards: print these onto yellow or gold card

**God will  
fully  
satisfy  
you.**

**Forgiveness  
will be  
given to  
you.**



**Rewards: print these double-sided onto yellow or gold card.  
The page following is designed to print on the back.**



**Rewards: print these onto yellow or gold card**

**You will  
be with  
God.**





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

*...He said that joy in heaven would be the reward for those people who live out the Beatitudes.*



**Think about Jesus' words: what might he have meant by 'joy in heaven'?**



**Talk together about the things that make you feel joyful – or bring great rewards.**



**Take a piece of paper and on it draw or write something that makes you feel joyful. Then staple the flag onto the bunting to make a joyful decoration for your classroom.**

