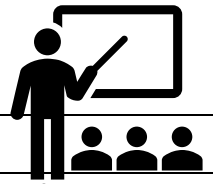




3. The Lesson on the Mountain



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 especially thinking about what Jesus taught the crowds in the ‘Sermon (Lesson) on the Mount(ain)’. The words are quite challenging, so go especially slowly with younger pupils.

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.
- **You will need to.... Gather props for the reflective story (you’ll find the script on p3)** – as large as you can find if you’re using this collective worship with more than one class.
- You will need: *Six squares of felt in assorted colours – green, yellow, black, red, white and purple; lots of small-world play-type people, enough for a ‘crowd’ e.g. Lego Duplo / Playmobil; a plastic plate; a plastic knife and fork; two role play cups; a double-sided smiley / sad face card; a red heart (cut out of card); a pair of scissors; a white bird; several smaller hearts cut out of white card; a small crown.*
- If you’re familiar with the ‘godly play’ style of telling stories, you may feel that you want to ‘memorise’ the script so that you can retell it in your own words using the objects given. If you’re not sure, then you could make the script into cards that can be put in order on the table / floor in front of you to prompt you as you go along. You’ll need to rehearse it anyway, to make sure that you have the order sorted in your head before you start. Create pauses during the story and keep the pace slow so that children have time to absorb what they hear, and make sure that you show what you’re putting out each time.
- **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:** Leave the story objects (or a photo of them) out, to help to focus the questions on the reflection card. *OR:* How can we show our school’s values in action? Maybe keep a tally chart of when you’ve noticed others ‘living out’ your values – encourage pupils to explain where they saw what happening.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Teach the new 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:** When we think of a lesson, we often think about being in school, but for today, we’re going to start by thinking about other places that lessons might take place.....
- Join me to play **‘Where’s this lesson?....’**
- **Slides 3-7:** Use these ideas, or create your own....
- **Slide 8:** Two weeks ago, we thought about the question **‘What makes us happy?’** and we’ve been thinking more about it in our reflective areas. I wonder what different answers we have thought of [Allow children to share some ideas.]
- This really BIG question of what makes us happy has puzzled people over thousands of years, and it’s what we’re going to be thinking about over the coming weeks in our times together. We’re also going to find out what Jesus had to say about being happy, and we’re going to start with the story that I promised you last week, where Jesus teaches people, not in a classroom, but.....
- **Slide 9:**on a mountainside! Jesus was a great teacher, and people loved to be near him. Wherever he went, crowds followed him to hear what he would say.



- Don't worry if it seems difficult to understand what Jesus was saying, because we're going to explore more together, bit by bit over the next few weeks.
- **Slide 10:** I'm going to use some objects to help me.... [*use script p. 3 and objects*]
- **Slide 11:** We have thought together recently about the things that make us happy, and how our school values might help to do this here in our school community. Today, in the 'lesson on the mountain', we've heard how Jesus taught the crowds that there were things that would make them **truly happy** – things that should be a part of their everyday lives, just like food – in fact Jesus called it the 'food' of God's kingdom..... I wonder if you can remember what some of them were?
- **Slide 12:** Brilliant job! They were things like loving others and treating them with kindness.....forgiving others no matter what.....settling quarrels and being a 'peacemaker'.
- The words that we have shared in the story of Jesus' lesson are going to be words that we will focus on during this term. In the Bible, they are called '**The Beatitudes**' – which is a definition that comes from the Latin word '**beati**' which means 'blessed', which is how Jesus started each of those important sentences, 'Blessed are you if.....'.
- To us, the word Beatitudes also sounds a lot like the word 'attitude', which is to do with how we behave in life, so we are doing a bit of word play and calling our theme this term the 'How-to-be-attitudes', as we explore Jesus' words across the coming weeks.
- We'll be carrying on with some more of Jesus' lesson next week, but for now, let's draw our thoughts together.

Slide 13: Responding and words for worship

At the end of the story, I asked some 'wondering' questions, which we are going to use as part of our reflection time together now....so let's just be quiet for a few moments now.... [*you may wish to allow time for children to talk to each other here, if this is your normal practice*]

....I wonder what the people thought when they heard what Jesus said?.....

....I wonder what this shows about what's important in God's kingdom?.....

....I wonder what this might teach people about being truly happy?....

.....or how to behave towards each other?....

....I wonder how we might do these things today – and how our school's values might help us?

I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now, 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 14: Prayer

Dear God

Thank you for all the good things in our lives that make us happy. Help us to remember the things that Jesus taught about true happiness – to love others and forgive them when they hurt or upset us, to treat others with kindness and to bring peace wherever we go. Please help us as we try to live like this.

Slide 15: Amen

Sending: Slide 16

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

All: *May we live in a way that makes us – and others – truly happy.*

To listen to / sing:

[The Kindness Song](#) or [Let's be kind](#) (NBD)





Slide 17: Reflective areas

Leave the story objects (or a photo of them) out, to help to focus the questions on the reflection card.

OR: How can we show our school's values in action? Maybe keep a tally chart of when you've noticed others 'living out' your values – encourage pupils to explain where they saw what happening.



The Lesson on the Mountain

[1. Put out the square of green felt]

Wherever Jesus went *[put one person, standing, on the felt]*, he taught people about God, *[put more people onto the felt, in a sitting position, as you talk]*, and about God's kingdom.....and people followed him to hear what he would say – not just one or two, but many, many people.....all waiting to hear about God's kingdom.....

.....

[2. Put out the square of yellow felt]

One such time, Jesus talked to a crowd like this, who'd gathered on the hillside.....and this is what he said.....
'In God's kingdom, you will be truly happy if you are hungry and thirsty *[put out plate, knife, fork and a cup]*.....not for food, but for the things of God's kingdom, good things that God wants for you....if you live your life his way.....just like this.....'

.....

[3. Put out the square of black felt]

'In God's kingdom, you can be truly happy *[show happy face card]* even during the saddest times *[turn to show sad face]* because at times like this, God will be with you and comfort you *[turn to show happy face again]*
.....this is what it's like in God's kingdom....'

.....

[4. Put out the square of red felt]

'You will be truly happy if you love others and treat them with kindness *[place red heart onto felt]*.....but even if they hurt you, *[pick up red heart and cut a jagged line into it with scissors]*, or say unkind things about you, you should forgive them, just as God has forgiven you.....
.....this is what it's like in God's kingdom....'

.....

[4. Put out the square of white felt]

'You will be truly happy if you do everything you can to live at peace with others *[put dove onto felt]*.....settling arguments quickly *[put out white hearts one at a time as you talk]*.....sorting out disagreements.....showing others how to be friends again.....being a peacemaker.....
.....this too is what it's like in God's kingdom....'

.....



[5. Put out the square of purple felt]

Jesus also said: 'You will be truly happy if you live like this, thinking and speaking and acting in ways that put others first....

....the way of God's Kingdom [place crown]...

....even when things are difficult, and people don't understand what you are doing, remember that God will reward you, and bring you great joy.....

[PAUSE]

I wonder.....

.....what the people thought when they heard what Jesus said?.....

I wonder.....

....what this shows about what's important in God's kingdom?.....

I wonder.....

....what this might teach people about being truly happy?....





*...Jesus was a great teacher....
...He taught the people on the mountain about what
it means to be truly happy...*



**Look at the different objects from
our story....**



**What did Jesus say about being
truly happy?....
...about loving others....forgiving
others.... and putting others
first....about bringing peace....?**



**Hold one of the story objects in
your hand as you think....or
pray....**

