



1. Words to live by

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 begin a series of themes based on wise words – all of them from the Bible, all of them ancient advice about how to live, but in our modern world, they often sound surprisingly up to date! We link this ancient wisdom to stories from across the world and across cultures in the first half of the term, and begin today with some New Year’s Resolutions and an introduction to the book of Proverbs as a way of helping pupils to think about how words shape the way that we live.



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

Throughout this term, 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. Most of the themes should easily allow for this.

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.
- **Today’s game, based on some of King Solomon’s famous wisdom, could be made into a proper ‘Game Show’, where you invite a panel of children to take part, using the statements found on p. Make these into cards that can be read out by your ‘panel’, with the answer ‘wise’ or ‘foolish’ written on the back, for each to reveal once the audience have decided what they think. If you don’t feel comfortable doing this, there is a less exciting version using 4 statements on slide 11.**
- **Reflective prayer activity:** write some wise words on gold coins, which could become your New Year’s Resolution.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Teach the new gathering words, which will be the same each week.



- **Leader: We are here together**
- **Children: With ears ready to hear and hands ready to serve.**
- **All: May we be wise in all our actions today.**

Engaging:

- **Slide 2:** As you might have gathered from our new greeting, we’re going to start this brand new term – and a brand new year! – with a brand new theme: ‘Wise Words’.
- **Slide 3:** We’re going to start today finding out about a King called Solomon, whose wise words made him very famous.
How he got his wisdom is a whole story in itself!.....
- **Slide 4:** When King David died, his son Solomon became the new King of Israel.
- **Slide 5:** One night, in a dream, King Solomon heard God speak to him saying, ‘Ask me for anything at all and I will give it to you.’
- **Slide 6:** Solomon replied that he wanted to know how to be a good king and lead his people well. **‘I’d like wisdom please, not gold!’ he said.**
God replied, ‘Because you did not ask for something for yourself, I will make you wise like no other king ever – and I will also make you rich and famous.’
- **Slide 7:** When people argued and each thought the other person was wrong, they would tell King Solomon and he always had an answer that was right, fair and wise.
- **Slide 8:** People from all across the world heard how wise and fair King Solomon was and that he knew what was right and what was wrong. They came to hear the wise words God gave him.
And people all over the world still read these ancient words to help them to know how to be wise and how to live well.
- **Slide 9:** King Solomon’s wise words can be found in a part of the Bible called ‘Proverbs’.
Many of the proverbs are written in pairs, like opposites – here’s one for us to start with, to show you how they work:
**It’s wise to be patient,
but it’s foolish to lose your temper.**



[Explore together how these words help to show people how to live well i.e. that being patient shows you are wise – and that losing your temper is something that is foolish. Hopefully most people will agree that this is true!]

- **Slide 10:** We are going use some of Solomon’s wise words now to play a game. Your job as contestants in my game is to decide whether words read out by my panel here are wise or foolish. Let’s welcome our panel *[introduce them, quiz show style.... use your best quizmaster voice here!]* Now, let’s get right to it and start our quiz: let’s play ‘Wise or Foolish?’ where you decide who’s wise and who’s not *[use the cards that you have chosen, find out what your ‘audience’ think each time – and then each panel member shows the answer on the back. You might want to talk about some with children, if time allows. Alternatively, use optional Slide 11]*

Slide 12: Responding and words for worship

Watch out for our **wise owl words** each week as we discover some more of King Solomon’s words, and use them to help us to think as a school community. Let’s pause and do this now.....

King Solomon wrote: **‘It is better to get wisdom than gold. It is better to choose understanding than silver!’**

I wonder if you agree with him?!

Slide 13: Although we made it into a game, wisdom, being wise, is something we hope that we help you to develop during your time with us in school.

Being wise is not just about knowing lots of facts, it’s about making good choices.

As we come towards the end of our time together today, let’s ask ourselves some ‘wondering’ questions about wisdom to help us to think....

....I wonder where wisdom comes from?.....

....I wonder why wisdom might be worth more than gold?....

....I wonder how our school’s values might help us to be wise?....

....I wonder what being ‘wise’ means for you?....or which wise words you might want to live by this New Year?....

Slide 14: At the start of a new calendar year, people often make New Year’s Resolutions, promises we make to ourselves about living in a better way, such as being more active.

Maybe some of the words we’ve thought about today might help us to make wise New Year’s Resolutions?

Slide 15: Opportunity for reflection / prayer

I’m going to pray now. If this is something that you feel comfortable doing, then after I say God’s name, **‘God’** you might want to join in with **‘help us to be wise.’**

If you don’t want to pray, then use the quiet to be still with your own thoughts.

Slide 16: As we start this new term together, **God, ‘help us to be wise.’**

Slide 17: In our families and friendships, **God, ‘help us to be wise.’**

Slide 18: In the choices that we make, **God, ‘help us to be wise.’**

Slide 19: In the way that we live, **God, ‘help us to be wise.’**

Slide 20: Amen

Sending: Slide 21

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

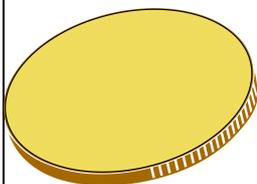
All: May today’s words help us to make wise choices.



To listen to / sing:

[Back in school again](#) (AAOS); [Our School](#) (AAOS)

Slide 22: Reflective areas



At the start of a new calendar year, people often make New Year’s Resolutions, promises we make to ourselves about living in a better way, such as being more active. Maybe some of the words we’ve thought about today might help us to make wise New Year’s Resolutions? Or maybe you want to write some words that are ‘gold’ for you? Write them on a large gold coin.



Wise / Foolish Statements, to choose from for the 'Wise or Foolish?!' Game Show:

STATEMENT

someone who is lazy

someone who is hardworking

someone who listens to instructions

someone who chatters

someone who thinks before they speak

someone who says whatever they like

someone who puts others first

someone who thinks only of themselves

someone who is generous

someone who won't share

someone who takes care of animals

someone who is cruel to animals

ANSWER

foolish

wise

wise

foolish

wise

foolish

wise

foolish

wise

foolish

wise

foolish





“It is better to get wisdom than gold.”



Why might wisdom be better than gold?



Talk together about where you think wisdom comes from.

Which words do you think are wise words, or words that might help you to live well?



At the start of this new year, you might want to turn your ideas into a New Year’s Resolution.

Draw or write your idea onto a gold coin.



Print onto paper for New Year Resolutions / 'golden' wise words

