



# 10. Are we nearly there yet?!!

**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 the story of Moses and journeying with him as he leads God’s people from Egypt and to the Promised Land. At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to be back together as a community, and so we are using the story of Moses to help us to reflect on some important ideas from this story about being community together and about God, who looked after them. These stories can be found in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur’an, recognising Moses as a prophet and leader in all three of these Abrahamic traditions: these stories often generate some challenging questions about judgement and justice (especially from older pupils), so in these collective worship resources, we choose to emphasise the positive messages and outcomes e.g. God seeing and responding to the cruel treatment of the people, and being *with* his people. We are very grateful to [FreeBibleImages](#) for the use of their PowerPoint slides and images for many of the assemblies this term. The story that you can all tell together, for this week, is based on a much-loved model in the famous children’s book ‘We’re going on a bear hunt’



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

This week, we tell the story of the whole journey, and recap the story, from leaving Egypt, going through the Red Sea and across the desert- and then spending 40 years, wandering (and probably wondering too, ‘Are we nearly there yet?!’)

### 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.
- **If you have a copy in your school or classroom, find a copy of ‘We’re going on a bear hunt’, which is based on the model in an old American folk song (which is what Michael Rosen used, and why we can use it here!)** You might want to add your own actions to the story, as you re-enact it, Bear-Hunt style
- **For your reflection area this week, you will need some pieces of map, or just plain paper for children to draw their own**

**Gathering: Slides 1&2** Use this two-step gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. Why not invent some actions to make them extra memorable?!



- **Leader:** On the journey of life....
- **Children:** ...we are glad to be together in our school community.
- **Leader:** As we gather together....
- **Children:** ...may we learn from each other and hear from God.

### Engaging:

- **Slide 3: Are we nearly there yet?!!** I wonder if you’ve ever said these words? Where were you – and how long was your journey?! [*share stories together*]
- **Slide 4:** Last week, we took a little time out of the story of Moses and God’s people to remember: just like they did, we ‘Remembered that....’ Today, we are going to re-tell some of their story as we join the Israelites, God’s people, back on their journey.
- We’re going to use a very familiar story frame to help us – a model that you may know from this book [*show Bear Hunt book*] So, there are parts for you to join in with, just like the bear hunt story.
- **Slide 5:** Our story is called, **‘We’re going on a journey’** ....and it’s full of many of the extraordinary things that happened to God’s people. Some we’ve already heard about, and others are new, as they carry on their journey to the land that God has promised them, their new home. [*use script on p.3-4, slides 6-48*]
- **Slide 48:** .....unfortunately, no!  
The journey went on – and on.... And on!  
For 40 years, God’s people wandered in the desert – and for today, this is where we leave them [*add your own cliffhanger sound effect here*]



**Slide 49: Responding (words for worship) and words to wonder:**

....I wonder why the journey of God’s people was such a long one?....  
....I wonder what they learned about God as they travelled?....



....I wonder what we have learned during our time together this term?....

*[you might also want to spend some time reflecting on / talking about whether you've ever felt stuck in a 'loop', like God's people did in the desert]*

**Slide 50:** I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now. If you'd like to pray too, then find a way to make it your own.... Today's prayer is a blessing that is very old, probably from Ireland (which is one part of the British Isles) This blessing talks about wishing someone well as they go on their journey....that their journey will be an easy one. This may be an actual journey, but it could also mean the journey of people's day-to-day lives. As you listen, you might not understand every word, because the language is like a poem, so I'm going to use some pictures to help us. *[Try to leave a pause between each slide, and resist the urge to explain the words: let them sink in and let the words and pictures 'speak' to children at whatever level they will absorb them, even if it's only to enjoy how they sound. Read it more than once if you think it will help.]*

**Slide 51: May the road rise up to meet you.**

**Slide 52: May the wind be always at your back.**

**Slide 53: May the sun shine warm upon your face;**

**Slide 54: the rains fall soft upon your fields**

**Slide 55: and until we meet again,**

**Slide 56: may God hold you in the palm of His hand.**

**Slide 57: Amen**

**Sending: Slide 58: Remind children of today's key message – journeying together**

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

**All: May today's words help us to become a stronger community!**



**To listen to / sing:**

[Every Step \(Official Lyric Video\) - Nick & Becky Drake - YouTube](#) Listen or join in to this Christian song that, like God's people, helps Christians remember that God is with them every step they take.

Or if you prefer, use [God is watching over you](#) (AAOS)



**Reflective activity: 'Are we nearly there yet?!'**

Create a map that reflects the journey of your life so far.

Who has helped you on your journey?

You might want to write their names on your map along your 'journey'.

Say thank you!



## **We're going on a journey....**

We're going to start at the very beginning of their journey, as they leave Egypt.  
Join in as much as you can..... [encourage children to join in the sections in bold  
– you might also want to add your own actions]

**'We're going on a journey  
It's going to be a long one!  
We're a bit tired.....  
'ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?!!!'.....**

Uh-oh.....soldiers! Hairy, scary soldiers.....

**We can't hide from them.**

**We can't go around them.**

**We'll have to run away then....**

[make running sounds, getting louder as you go.....]

**Run, run, run run, run run!**

**'We're going on a journey  
It's going to be a long one!  
We're a bit tired.....  
'ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?!!!'.....**

Uh-oh.....the sea, the wide Red Sea.

**We can't go over it.....We can't go around it. We'll have to go through it! (on  
dry land!!)**

**Oh wow!! Oh wow!! OH WOW!!!**

**'We're going on a journey  
It's going to be a long one!  
We're a bit tired.....  
'ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?!!!'.....**

\*Uh-oh.....a desert, a wide open desert....

**We can't go over it.**

**We can't go under it.**

**We'll have to go *across* it!**



**crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch, crunch!**

**'We're going on a journey  
It's going to be a long one!  
We're a bit tired.....**

**'ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?!!!'.....**

**\*Uh-oh!! It's night time – we want to go to bed now!**

**We can't go to sleep yet,**

**We need to put the tents up.....**

**Night, night everyone!!!**

**snore, snore, snore, snore, snore, snore!**

**'We're going on a journey  
It's going to be a long one!  
We're a bit tired.....**

**'ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?!!!'.....**

**\*Oooo look!! Manna! White, crispy manna....**

**We don't know what to call it,**

**We don't know how it got here,**

**But God has provided!**

**munch, munch, munch, munch, munch, munch**

**'We're going on a journey  
It's going to be a long one!  
We're a bit tired.....**

**'ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?!!!'.....**

**\*Oooo look!! The cloud.... The cloud is on the move!!**

**It's God's presence with us:  
we can't lose sight of it,  
and God says 'Move!'**



**Pack UP! Pack UP! Pack UP!!!!**

**\*REPEAT THESE SECTIONS TWICE MORE, before adding**

**'We're going on a journey  
It's going to be a long one!  
We're a bit tired.....**

**'ARE WE NEARLY THERE YET?!!!'.....**

.....unfortunately, no!

The journey went on – and on.... And on!

For 40 years, God's people wandered in the desert, and so that's where we'll  
leave them for today....





***“Are we nearly there yet?!!”***



**Our theme this week focuses on the long journey that God’s people went on together.**

**What long journeys have you been on?**



**How have we ‘journeyed’ together this term and what have we learned?**



**Create a map that reflects the journey of your life so far.  
Who has helped you on your journey? You might want to write their names on your map along your ‘journey’.**

