



11. In their footsteps.....

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, serving the needs of our unique school contexts. We continue this term’s theme of **‘Shine Like Stars!’** with a short series based on the new publication **‘Heroes of Hope’** (which we hope all of our Church schools have a copy of, courtesy of the Church of England). Like Daniel, the 22 ‘heroes’ in this book lived in challenging times, and demonstrated in *their* actions how to ‘shine like stars’, standing up for what is right and good in a world that often didn’t reflect this. In our world today, we want to inspire resilience in our pupils to be confident in who they are and what they stand for, just like these heroes, and to be positive role models in your school community, even when it might be difficult. **This week, we reach Easter – and stop and reflect on how many Christians will be trying to ‘follow in Jesus’ footsteps’ as they journey through the Easter story – and their lives. We also link this to the people whose stories we have celebrated this term.**



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

This week, we will be thinking about how the stories we have shared this term might have provided us with role models for the future, or made links with your vision and values. This is especially evident throughout the script, reflection and prayer sections this week.

Resources:

- **NB The ‘Heroes of Hope’ book that we refer to is available for free for all Church schools: for those schools in the Diocese of Guildford who have not collected their copy, please contact jane.whittington@cofeguildford.org.uk or come into Church House and we will be very happy to give you your copy. Additional copies are available from SPCK: [Heroes of Hope - Sharon Prentis | Alysia-Lara Ayonrinde - SPCK Publishing](#) We are very grateful to the illustrators (Daniela Gamba, Neda Kazemifar, Anastasia Magloire Williams and Jen Khatun) and to SPCK for granting us permission to use some of the illustrations from the book for these resources. Please respect the artists’ rights and do not share these images other than within these collective worship resources.**
- **Please remember that the resources that we provide should be adapted where needed, to suit the context of your own school and your own pupils.**
- **This term, in addition to our usual gathering and sending slides, we are including a slide at the very start to help to ‘still’ pupils, and help them to enter into the ‘sacred’ space of collective worship, ready to think, reflect, talk or pray. You might also want to use this in your class to change the ‘mood’ for any class-based worship. Take this at whatever pace seems necessary for your pupils. It ends with a visual ‘timetable’, setting out some of the elements that will be included in our time together, which we hope may help some pupils. You can also find these as cards to print out to use in other collective worship if this helps you.**
- As always, 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.
- 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.
- **You will need.....** paper to cut out footprints from. Pupils could draw around their own foot shape, or use the smaller template on p.4
- **Reflective prayer activity:** use the cut out paper ‘footprints’ for children to write about whose ‘footsteps’ they might want to follow in.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Rising hearts stilling exercise

Use the stilling slide if desired: the suggested words should be spoken slowly, leaving pauses inbetween to create a sense of stillness.

As you sit quietly, watch the spring flowers blowing gently in the breeze....[PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....keep this going as you continue to look at the flowers....[PAUSE]

You maybe notice that you are feeling calmer and more relaxed....[PAUSE]

As you breathe, think back to all the lives we’ve heard about this term and how they have shone like stars..... [PAUSE]

We come into this special / sacred space and time to be still....to think deeply.....to be together as a school community.....

In our time together today, we will **have a quiz, share a story and then use it to help us to think.**



But first, let's welcome one another as we begin....

Slide 2:

Leader: As we gather together today....

ALL:we bring our thoughts and our hearts into this sacred space.

Here are BSL actions for some of the words:

Leader's words:

Gather: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/gather> (1st video); Today: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/today> (1st video)

Pupils' response:

Thoughts: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/thoughts> (1st video); Hearts: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/heart> (1st video)

Engaging:

Slides 3-13: Quiz – Whose Footsteps

On the next few slides are some footprints that have been left behind.....but can we work out whose they are?



Slide 14: 'Following in someone's footsteps'

When people talk about 'following in someone's footsteps', it's a way of saying that they want to live their life by following someone's good example. We're going to be thinking about this in our time together today. *[you might want to ask some adults in the room to share some examples from their experience here.]*

Slide 15: People who are Christians will try to follow the example of Jesus, to 'follow in his footsteps'. The cross is a special symbol for them because it is a reminder of the life that Jesus lived. The Easter narrative is a very special part of the Bible, and the cross an important symbol, because it reminds them of how Jesus lived, and served and gave up his life.

Jesus once said this:

'If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me.' (Mark 8:34)

What Jesus meant when he said this was that for people who are Christians, who follow in his footsteps, life may not always be easy. Following in his footsteps means forgetting about the things that they want, putting the needs of other people first and doing what he would do, even if it means facing difficulties, or even suffering, in their lives. We have seen this in the lives of our Heroes of Hope.....

Slide 16: This term, we've been hearing stories from the lives of people across the world and across history, thinking about the things that made them 'shine like stars' – standing out in the world that they lived in, and in what we might want to learn from their lives. But each one of them was following in the footsteps of Jesus.....let's remind ourselves how.....!

Slide 17: In the first half of term, we heard how Daniel and his friends lived with courage, standing up for things that were good and right.... **...just like Jesus.** *[you will use these words across the next few slides, so you might want to invite children to join in!]*

Slide 18: In the life of St. Monica, we heard how her faithful love and prayers for her son Augustine changed his life. She showed him what 'love is....' **...just like Jesus.** *[you will use these words across the next few slides, so you might want children to join in!]*

Slide 19: In the life of St. Martin de Porres, we heard how he treated those who were sick and injured, going out of his way to help them and heal them **...just like Jesus.**

Slide 20: We also heard about the life of Toyohiko Kagawa in Japan, who loved the parable of the Good Samaritan and lived his life according to the message about being a good neighbour, even to enemies..... **just like Jesus.**

Slide 21: And last week, we heard about St. Alphonsa who overcame great pain and suffering to help those around her and gave love as the greatest gift..... **...just like Jesus.**



Slide 22: Responding and words for worship

Jesus said: 'If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me.' (Mark 8:34)



Think quietly about these words for a few moments. You might want to think about what they mean for Christians.....or you might want to think about what they mean to you.....

Slide 23: Responding and words for worship

We've heard how our Heroes of Hope followed in the footsteps of Jesus in the way they lived their lives... As we draw our time together to a close, let's take a few moments to reflect and wonder together.....

....I wonder what we might have learned from our Heroes of Hope over the past few weeks?.....

....I wonder what it might mean for us to 'follow in their footsteps, or in the footsteps of Jesus?.....

....I wonder whose footsteps you might follow as you live your life?....

Slide 24: Prayer

As we turn to prayer now, there are some words that you can make your own if you would like to, which will come onto the screen each time you see a footprint appear....our words are **May we follow in his/her* footsteps.** [**this will change, depending on the context*]

Daniel lived his life with courage....

May we follow in his footsteps.

St, Monica lived her life with love....

May we follow in her footsteps.

St, Martin lived his life with compassion....

May we follow in his footsteps.

Toyohiko Kagawa lived his life being a good neighbour....

May we follow in his footsteps.

St. Alphonsa lived her life with perseverance....

May we follow in her footsteps.

Slide 25: Amen

Sending: Slide 26

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

All: May we shine like stars!



Pupils' response:

Shine: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/shine> (4th video); Stars: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/stars> (4th video)

To listen to / sing:

Choose one of the songs from across the term, or choose an Easter song from your school repertoire that fits with your day, or you could listen to '[Sign your cross](#)' by Nick and Becky Drake



Slide 27: Reflective areas

Cut footprint shapes out of paper.

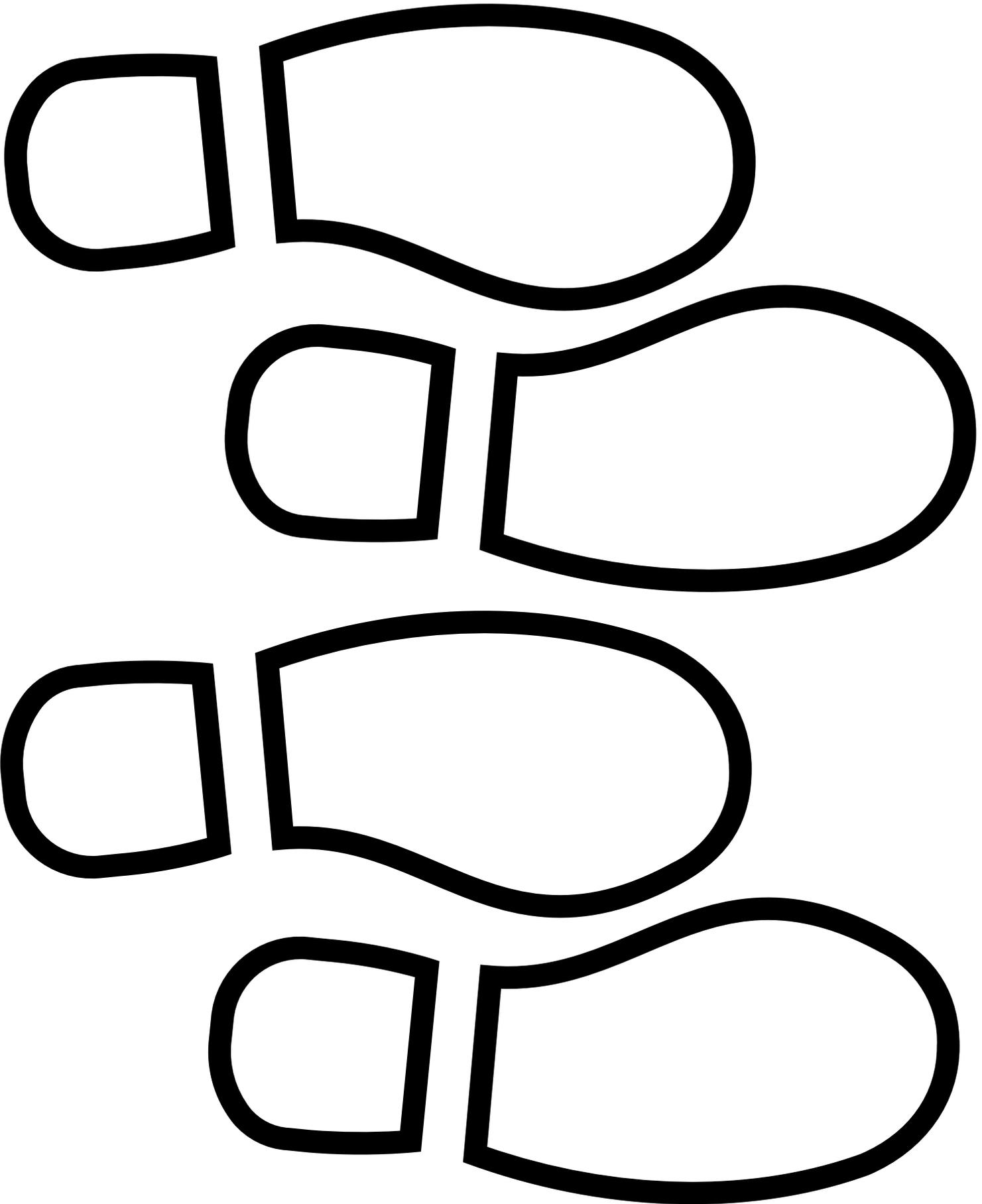
Think: Think about the people whose stories we have shared this term. Which stories have inspired you most?

Talk: Whose 'footsteps' might you want to follow in?

Do: Draw or write your ideas onto a footprint shape. These could be displayed in your classroom, or made into a book.



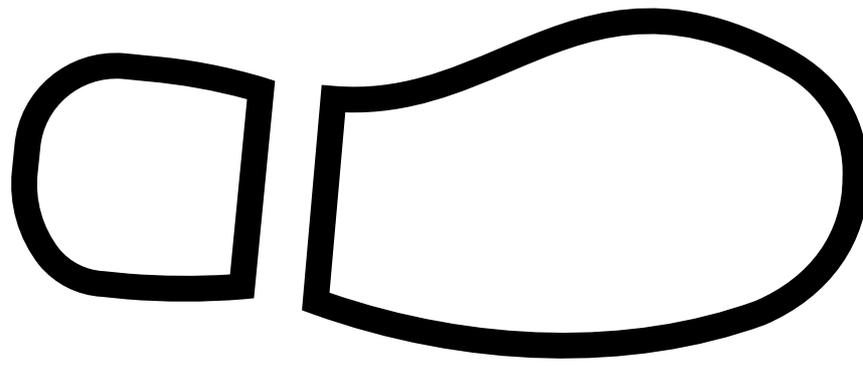
Cut out these footprint shapes – or get children to draw around their own!



Shine like stars!

11. Heroes of Hope - In their footsteps

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TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TRANSFORMING LIVES



Footsteps



Think about the people whose stories we have shared this term. Which stories have inspired you most?



Whose 'footsteps' might you want to follow in?



Draw or write your ideas onto a footprint shape. These could be displayed in your classroom, or made into a book.

