

# 14. Building wisely

Age range: Primary

**Theme:** We gather together 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. As human beings, we have storytelling in our DNA, and so for this final term of the school year, we offer some stories from across the world that help us to think about **'ourselves, others, beauty and/or beyond'**, and wonder together at the power of a story to help connect us and change us. We intentionally use **language from our Diocesan spirituality offer** throughout these resources and hope that this will help to build schools' understanding of the role of collective worship as part of spiritual flourishing. This week is the final week of term, and so an ideal opportunity to look back over the school year – and for Y2/6 pupils, their time at your school – and gather some wisdom to help us as we leave behind and move in in different ways. We use the familiar parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders as the final story for the term – and the school year.



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

This week, we are thinking about how your school's vision and values, and the wise words you've shared, have helped you to make good choices and (we hope) will continue to support children and adults as they move into the next school year. In these resources, we use the words that we have reflected on from this series 'Stories that help us to grow', but please do replace these with others that are more meaningful to your school community.

### 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.
- **You will need to:** print out the 'hidden treasure' words from across this term, and other words of wisdom that you have collected from your school community and attach them to each brick. Choose three of them to be your foundation stones – so maybe those that are most relevant for your own school's context, then scatter the rest of the bricks at the front for your 'builders' to create a wall from. **This is for you to customise for your own school context.**
- If you'd like to, include some builder dressing up items as your props for this collective worship. You will also need some large bricks for building an actual wall of wisdom (borrow from your early years department if you have one!)
- **Today, our story is in the form of a song**, which you can access here: [The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock with actions | Sunday School Song - YouTube](#) or here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HVdbULOVHA>
- **Reflective activity:** this week, the reflection activity could either be located in your classroom, or as part of any school-based leavers' celebrations. You will need to consult with the adults in your school community to ask them for wise words to share with any pupils who are leaving. These may also be relevant for pupils who remain! There is a form for doing this on p.3. You could also create a class brick wall of wise advice, to leave for the next class who will move into the room, investing in the ongoing spiritual life of your community.
- There are also some card strips (on p.5) that you could print out, laminate & stick a LEGO® brick onto as a memento of pupils' time at your school, with a reminder to live wisely.
- **Slides 14-21:** There is also an additional end of term blessing, which may be very fitting as you say goodbye to each other at the end of the year.

### Gathering:

#### Slide 1: Waves on the beach 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, look at the waves washing up onto the beach.....[PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....as you watch....[PAUSE]

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

As you breathe, think about yourself and what you bring into this time today..... [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 **sing our story (!), build a wall, and then think together.**

But first, let's share our usual greeting...

- **Slide 2:** Use our new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. These greetings may change slightly each week to reflect the **spiritual elements** that we will be exploring in each week's materials.



**Leader:** As we gather to share our story today....

**All: May we grow in our understanding of ourselves and of others.**

Here are BSL actions for some of the words:

**Leader's words:**

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

**Response words:**

Grow: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/grow> (2nd video); Ourselves: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/yourself> (2nd video); Others: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/others> (4th video)

## Engaging:

- **Slide 3:** Across this term, we have been exploring 'Stories that help us to grow', and today is our final week of the term, when we will look back together, and reflect on all the hidden treasure that we have discovered.
- **Slide 4:** We're going to share one final story together now, one of Jesus' most famous parables. This time, I'm not going to read it to you: we're going to sing it to each other! (And you can join in the actions!) As you listen, think about the hidden treasure that we might find in this parable: [The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock with actions | Sunday School Song - YouTube](#) [or click on the slide as it's hyperlinked]
- **Slide 5:** As you know from our stories earlier this term, Jesus often told stories (called parables) to help people to remember important things about God, and what matters to him. He said that people who are wise, who remember his words and put them into practice, are like the builder who built on rock, with firm foundations. Christians believe that the wise words of Jesus are like the rock on which the builder built.
- **Customise this for your context:** Some of these words are really special to us as a school, as they have helped to shape our school community and help us to make wise decisions about how to live together and in our world [if your school has some words of Jesus as part of your vision/values, you might want to add them to this slide]
- **Slide 6: Building**  
We're going to do some building of our own now. I'm going to choose a couple of builders, one from each class, to help me: don't worry, neither of you will have to be the foolish builder! [choose builders & dress them]  
I have three bricks here to start us off, that contain some of the words that we have heard during this term, which are going to form our foundations [read your chosen words out as you build together]  
Builders, scattered around, you'll see some more big bricks that we need to build into our wall. These also contain some of the hidden treasure that we have found together in the stories we've shared this term – and some very special ones from your teachers: words for you to remember, and 'build with', as you move on to your new class / schools. [collect, read words out and build]



## Slide 7: Responding (words for worship):

....so, at the end of our term and in the stillness of this moment, let's spend some time wondering together.....

Let's look at our whole wall together now, built on those firm foundations ....

...I wonder how we might put some of these words into practice?....

....I wonder which words might help us as we move into our new classes?....

....I wonder which words might help us to make good decisions in life?.....

...Jesus' story of the two builders also reminds us that we have choices: not about actual building, but building our lives wisely, or foolishly..... As we all move on at the end of this school year and look forward to the future, let's 'be careful how we build', and make wise choices.....



I'm going to pray now, and ask God's blessing on this last week of term as we pack up and wish each



other well. You might wish to join in with me, using the words ‘help us to build wisely.’

- **Slide 8:** As we think of all the hidden treasure we have discovered this term....‘help us to build wisely.’
- **Slide 9:** At the end of this term, though we are tired and weary....‘help us to build wisely.’
- **Slide 10:** In the choices that we make, now and in the future....‘help us to build wisely.’
- **Slide 11: AMEN.**

**Sending: Slide 12**

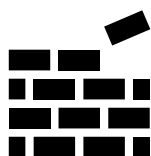
**Leader:** As we leave this place and time and go into all that lies ahead...

**All:** ....‘help us to build wisely.’

**To listen to / sing:**

[The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock with actions](#) or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HVdbULOVHA> & [Our farewell song](#) (NBD)



**Reflection wall:**

We suggest that you might create a similar ‘wall’ to the one that you built in the gathering, containing words of wisdom from your current class for the next class that will come into the room, investing in the ongoing spiritual life of your community.

**Optional extra last day of term blessing: words are on the slides, or video [here](#)**

- **Optional blessing for the last day of term:** This 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 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.]*



## Wise words.....

Print for each adult in your school community *[you may need to select / combine any that are similar]*

As part of our end of term preparations, I'd like to use some wise words from you as an adult at our school who's been a part of our children's journeys. What you want to pass on to them as a group as they move on needs to be short and to the point – something that they will easily remember. It could be something as simple as 'Always do your best.' or a favourite phrase that you often repeat, so don't worry about needing to be really profound! If you could record your words on the back of this slip and pass them to me by....., I'd be really grateful.

As part of our end of term preparations, I'd like to use some wise words from you as an adult at our school who's been a part of our children's journeys. What you want to pass on to them as a group as they move on needs to be short and to the point – something that they will easily remember. It could be something as simple as 'Always do your best.' or a favourite phrase that you often repeat, so don't worry about needing to be really profound! If you could record your words on the back of this slip and pass them to me by....., I'd be really grateful.

As part of our end of term preparations, I'd like to use some wise words from you as an adult at our school who's been a part of our children's journeys. What you want to pass on to them as a group as they move on needs to be short and to the point – something that they will easily remember. It could be something as simple as 'Always do your best.' or a favourite phrase that you often repeat, so don't worry about needing to be really profound! If you could record your words on the back of this slip and pass them to me by....., I'd be really grateful.



Print these and stick onto your bricks: choose three to be your foundations

**Grow well!!**

**...we are all  
welcome here...**

**‘Do small things with  
great love.’**



**Make good  
choices.**

**Share with those who  
are in need.**

**Grow good fruit in  
your hearts.**



**Work together – each part is valuable!**

**Encourage one another.**

**Bring comfort to those who are sad.**



**Serve one  
another.**

**Be generous and  
willing to share.**



**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

**'Build' your life carefully: make wise choices!**

*1 Corinthians 3:10 and Matthew 6:24-26*

