



2. The power of words

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 continue today with a picture from the book of Proverbs about the power of words.



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.
- **You will need a tube of toothpaste and a toothbrush for this collective worship! The opening challenge requires a child to do something completely impossible, which is an important point to make in the context of Solomon's words today. Please choose your volunteer carefully, and don't let the child get too frustrated. The challenge is to squeeze some toothpaste onto the brush – not too hard! – but then put it back into the tube again. You could use an adult in the room if you preferred.**
- **You will also have in your school or class libraries many picture books about the power of words – for good and for bad. You will need to choose one of these to refer to & summarise, on slide 5**
- *Today's words from Proverbs are 'Careless words stab like a sword. But wise words bring healing.' If you have families who have been connected with knife crime in any way, you may be better rephrasing this more appropriately, whilst reserving the meaning e.g. 'Careless words are sharp and painful*. But wise words bring healing.'
- **Reflective prayer activity:** Make sticking plaster shapes & write healing words on them

Gathering:

Slide 1: Use our new gathering words. Why not invent your own actions to accompany them?



- **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:** We are starting today with a challenge – with a tube of toothpaste! (and a toothbrush!) *[Choose a child (carefully! – see instructions in Resources section, above) to squeeze some toothpaste onto the brush. The real challenge is to try to put it back into the tube again, which of course, is impossible! Make sure that your volunteer feels that they haven't failed.]*
- **Slide 3:** We introduced our theme last week of Wise Words, which you might remember come from wise King Solomon. Let's hear some more words from him, not about toothpaste (which we will come back to in a moment!), but about some other familiar objects.... Let's read them together.....
- **Slide 4: 'Careless words stab like a sword*. But wise words bring healing.'**
These are an example of Solomon's pairs – where one part of the phrase is negative, and the other positive. I wonder which words you would prefer to hear?
I wonder if we can think of some words that might be like 'swords' and some words that are 'healing'.
[You may need to think of some examples to get the ball rolling – perhaps your class could help you with that? Spend some time working with assembled pupils' suggestions, teasing out what makes them 'sharp' or 'healing'. You could even gather some examples to keep in your reflective areas to help provoke thinking during the rest of the week.]
- **Slide 5:** As we know from last week, Solomon's wise words are all found in the book of Proverbs, in the Bible. His words today have helped us to think about the power that our words have to hurt people, or to heal them.



But we also have many books of our own that can help us to continue to think about the power of words. One of my favourites is.... [use the picture book that you have chosen in the way that you want to use it] You might want to use some of your own class favourites during story times this week.

- **Slide 6:** As we are still and quiet together now, you might be thinking about words that we could speak this week that will heal, not hurt. Close your eyes for a few moments now and think about the power of words..... [leave a good space here]

Slide 7: Responding and words for worship

We've been thinking today about the power of words – to hurt, and to heal.

-I wonder what we might learn from Solomon's wise words this week?....
-I wonder if there are words we've said that we have later regretted?.....
-or words that we need to say to someone else to make them feel better?....
-I wonder what might help us to follow Solomon's advice in our school this week?....



You might be thinking especially about words that have been hurtful – maybe words that have been said to you, or words that you might have said to others. In our school community, we sometimes need to say sorry if we have hurt others – and it's true of our words as well. Saying sorry and being forgiving is an important part of us being able to live well together. If there is something that you need to put right, then today is the day to do it. We can help you to do this if you need us to.

Slide 8:

For our prayer today, I am going to use some words written by wise King Solomon's son, David – yes that David, the Shepherd-King!

Let me read them to you before I pray them and invite you to join me if you wish to. You might want to find some way of making them your own....

'May the words of my mouth and the thoughts in my heart please you, O God.'

Slide 9: Amen

Sending: Slide 10

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:

[Build up](#) (AAOS)

[Be kind](#) (POP UK)

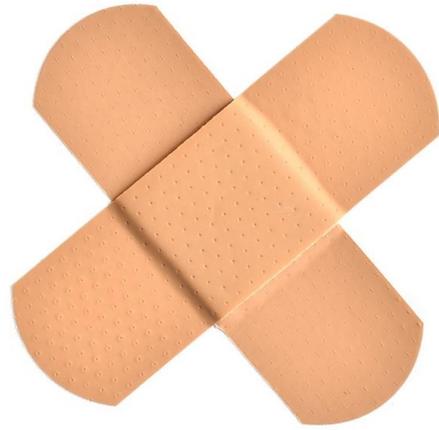


Slide 11: Reflective areas

Make sticking plaster shapes & write healing words on them.

Use the class story books that you have gathered this week.





***“Careless words stab like a sword.
But wise words bring healing.”***



**Hold a plaster shape in your hands.
Think about the power of words – to
hurt and to heal.**



**Talk together about ways that you
can help each other to follow King
Solomon’s wise advice this week.**



**Write ‘healing’ words onto the
plaster shapes – and even more
importantly, speak ‘healing’ words!**

