



4. Agent of change

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's parable builds on the parable of the Mustard Seed, reflecting how something very small (in this case, yeast) can make a big difference. We apply ideas that Jesus raised about God's Kingdom to how our own actions might be small, yet make a big difference.



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

The class reflection materials for this term follow the same pattern as previous terms – think, talk and do – but also (where possible) relate to questions about **ourselves, others, beauty and beyond**. Our materials this week relate to 'acting out' your school's vision and values in how we behave towards others, and how small things done with great love can change the world!

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 2 opportunities to engage children with the parable of the yeast – on slides 4&5– we use both in the script, but you could equally use either.
- **Slide 4 includes a 'mad science moment'**, with the video linked from the image of the yeast. Watch the video of how it works yourself first: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DV0q1_9ac If you want to replicate this in real time (which we do recommend rather than watching a video), you'll need a plastic bottle (e.g. fizzy drinks), a packet of dried instant yeast, a balloon (blow it up & deflate it a few times so it's good and stretchy!), 2 tablespoons of sugar and some warm water. It's worth trying this experiment out before the assembly so you can adapt things if it doesn't work first time. If you fancy dressing up as a mad science professor to do this experiment, then go for it! To conduct the experiment, you'll be replicating the 4th bottle in the video. Put about 3cm of warm (but not boiling) water into the bottle, add the yeast, swirl – and then add the sugar and swirl again. Now put the neck of the balloon over the neck of the bottle – and put it somewhere warm (e.g. on top of a heater, or outside in the sun)
- **Slide 5: Bread taste testing PLEASE BE AWARE OF ALLERGY ISSUES.** You will need a variety of different breads, for tasting, hand gel, and blindfolds. For the game at the start, you could choose children or teachers to blind-taste different types of bread to see if they can guess which is which. If using children, then make the choices a bit more obvious and use only a few e.g. bread sticks, ciabatta, French stick, pitta, granary etc. Make sure you have at least one risen bread, and one flat bread. If time is tight, you could choose from the bread-tasting or the experiment to accompany the story. **If you can get it, also bring a piece of fresh yeast to show.**
- **You will also need to print a set of cards that will be used in reflective areas this week (see below), to use in the collective worship.** Put them into a mixing bowl. Add a spoon for the full effect!
- **Reflective areas:** Print cards on p5-8; p9 is designed to go on the back.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Rising cake 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 cake rising in the oven..... [PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....maybe matching the rising of the cake....[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 **conduct a science experiment, share a quiz, tell a story and then use it to help us to think.**

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

- **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 our actions towards **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); Actions: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/actions> (1st video)

Engaging:

- **Slide 3:** As you watched the cake rise at the very start of our time together, I wonder if you thought about what was happening in the oven, or if you've ever watched this happen for yourselves? *[talk together about the 'science' of cake-baking and the presence of a raising agent to make the cake puff up.]* Today, we're going to share another of Jesus' stories, about this very **strange substance** *[show it if you have a piece – it's worth a smell too! – or view on screen]*, which is the 'magic ingredient' in bread to make it rise. It's called yeast.
- **Slide 4: Mad science moment**
To show you how it works, we're going to conduct an experiment with yeast and leave it to work for a while. We'll look at it again before you go back to class... *[do the experiment, or watch the video, talking to children about the process as you go]*
- **Slide 5: Bread taste testing** Now, while that's getting going, we're going to conduct *another* experiment: a taste-test! Who likes bread?! On this table, I have several different types of bread to be tasted. *[Go through each, making sure each is named to help children to identify them, or learn new vocabulary. Then choose your volunteers and explain the process. Make sure you choose children / adults who don't mind being blindfolded – and don't have any food allergies!]*
As you're aware, our parable today is about yeast, which, as we've seen, is the ingredient in bread that makes it rise like this *[show an example from your table]* not stay flat like this *[show a flatbread]* Just like most of us, people in Jesus' day would've eaten bread every day, in fact, maybe with every meal! So they would really know their bread!
- **Slide 6:** So, let's hear Jesus' story. This version of Jesus' parable isn't quite how Jesus told it, but as you listen, think about what the story might mean....and then we'll look to see if our experiment has worked!
- **Slide 7: An agent of change** *[use script on p4]*
- **Slide 8:** Now let's see if our yeast has done its work! *[Bring back your experiment, and talk about what's happened, explaining the chemical reaction that's taken place if time allows]* A small amount of yeast can have a big effect! In his parable, Jesus was giving another message about God and his kingdom to everyone who was listening. I wonder if you can see any connections with the **mustard seed parable** that we heard last week? *[ask for some responses if you have time, or leave the question open to be pondered... Answers may draw out the idea of something small having a big impact]*
- **Slide 9:** Over the time in the Christian calendar called Lent, the 40 days just before Easter, you may have been thinking about small, good deeds to do to bless others. In the same way that you only need a little bit of yeast to make a whole loaf of bread rise, you don't have to do a big thing to make a difference – and you don't have to save it for Lent! I have some ideas here in my mixing bowl: as I read, think about the difference that it might make to someone else today *[use a few cards from the mixing bowl]*by doing these things, Jesus said, other people get a glimpse of what God's kingdom might be like, but right here on earth.

Slide 10: Responding (and words for worship)

Let's be still and quiet together now....

...in the stillness, think about the things that you've heard today....

...about how a little bit of yeast makes a whole loaf of bread rise....

....we've also thought about how one small deed can make a whole lot of difference....

...[repeat some of the cards you looked at]....

...I wonder how our actions, even very small ones, might make a whole lot of difference?....

Mother Teresa once said that we should '**do small things with great love**'...

...these small things, done out of a heart of love, can change the world....

....and maybe show others what God's kingdom is like....



I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now, as I ask God to help us to put some of these ideas into practice. Make the prayer your own if you'd like to...or if you'd prefer not to pray, then just sit quietly with your own thoughts.

Slide 11:

Dear God

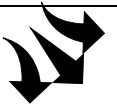
Thank you for this reminder that we can all make a difference, by doing 'small things with great love'. Today, help us to bless others in our school, our homes and our world.

Slide 12: Amen

Sending: Slide 13

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

All: May we do small things for others, with great love.



To sing / listen to:

[Let our love show](#) (NBD) or [City on a hill](#) (NBD) or [Chain of love](#) (BBC)



Slide 14: Reflective areas

Put the mixing bowl and cards into your reflective area

Do: Take a card from the mixing bowl and read what it says.

Think: Think about how you might bless someone else with this one small deed today....

Do: ...then put the card back in the bowl, and look out for the chance to do what it said!



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There are some repeated phrases [in brackets] in this story that children can join in with, so teach these before you use the story. You could add some actions for the bread-making process if you like!

- When you say 'bread', children respond with **"Yummy, yummy for my tummy!"**
- When you say 'yeast', children respond with **"Rise, dough! Rise!"** (They could use tiny, high-pitched voices!)
- When you say 'knead', children repeat **"Knead, knead, knead!"** (and could do kneading actions with their hands as well)

One day, a woman went into her kitchen to make some **bread** [**"Yummy, yummy for my tummy!"**] Out of her cupboard she took flour, sugar, and a tiny piece of **yeast** [**"Rise, dough! Rise!"**]

'Soon', she thought, 'my kitchen will be filled with the smell of my delicious **bread!**' [**"Yummy, yummy for my tummy!"**]

Into her bowl, she put the flour, and mixed the other ingredients with some nice warm water to put the **yeast** [**"Rise, dough! Rise!"**] to work. And then her work began.

She began to **knead** [**"Knead, knead, knead!"**] to help the yeast [**"Rise, dough! Rise!"**] to reach every part of the dough. She **kneaded** [**"Knead, knead, knead!"**] and **kneaded** [**"Knead, knead, knead!"**] and **kneaded** [**"Knead, knead, knead!"**] until her arms ached and the dough was smooth.

Her work was done. In a warm patch of sunshine, she left the dough to rest – and the **yeast** [**"Rise, dough! Rise!"**] to do its job.

One hour later, when the dough was ready for baking, the woman shaped the loaf and put it in the oven. Before too long, the kitchen was filled with the smell of freshly-baked **bread** [**"Yummy, yummy for my tummy!"**] and her longed-for loaf was perfectly risen and deliciously browned: the **yeast** [**"Rise, dough! Rise!"**] had done its job!



Jesus said: "The kingdom of God is like yeast that someone takes and works into flour."

You only need a tiny amount of yeast to make the bread rise: it makes a BIG difference!



Take a card from the mixing bowl and read what it says.



Think about how you might bless someone else with this one small deed today....



...then put the card back in the bowl, and look out for the chance to do what it said!



**tidy your classroom
without being asked**

**be the first to say sorry to
someone today**

**if someone does
something for you, say
'thank you'**

be a good team player

**talk to someone who's
not in your usual group of
friends**

**say something nice to
another person**

smile more often today

**be a friend to someone
who's lonely**

**ask if you can help at
school today**

**tidy up your toys without
being asked to**

**ask if you can help at
home today**

**say 'thank you' to the
adults who help you
today**

**pick up litter and put it in
the bin**

**play with a child from
another year group**

**do what you're asked
without complaining**

**cheer up someone who's
sad**

**tell someone at home
that you love them**

**hold the door open for
someone else today**

say something kind to the next person you meet

say 'thank you' to the people who made your lunch today

let someone else go first in the line

really listen to what someone has to say

help the environment: don't waste paper

don't interrupt when someone else is speaking

surprise someone (in a nice way!) today

put someone else first today

listen really carefully to your teacher today



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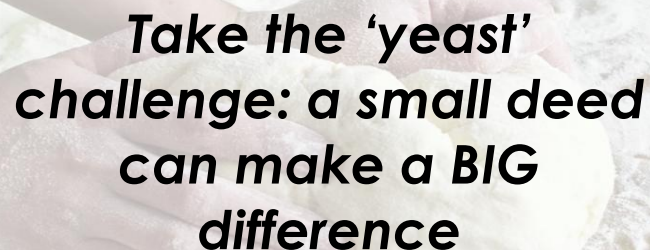
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Stories that help us to grow

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