



5. Sukkot – ‘God will provide!’

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. We begin this academic year with a reminder that it’s good to be grateful. Research reveals the importance of gratitude even in the midst of adversity: that being aware of each day’s ‘blessings’ can counteract anxiety, and so this term, we want to encourage schools to continue to do this through their collective worship. We provide a script with reflective ideas for classroom use and PowerPoint; both have additional content that you may wish to spread across the week and use in classrooms to ensure that you are meeting the requirement for daily collective worship and to support the spiritual flourishing of your whole school community.*

*You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. **This collective worship links to the Jewish celebration of Sukkot, which starts at dusk on 25th September and ends at dusk on 2nd October. Find out more about the festival [here](#) or [here](#). The story used in the assembly is the story that Jewish families will remember as they eat under the stars in their sukkah, or ‘tabernacle’. This is one of the three festivals that God’s people were commanded to ‘remember’, in order to recall how God had provided for them.***



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

Use this section to reference how your school’s vision & values create a **grateful community** – and link with any specific routines for you at this time of year. Sukkot is especially significant as a way for Jewish communities to stay connected with their past, and keep God’s commandments to ‘Remember that...’ You might like to link with ways that you do similarly with yearly celebrations

How might this link with the Guildford Diocese spirituality offer?

This icons in this section show how the collective worship theme links with the elements of **self, others, beauty** and/or **beyond**

 **Being aware of the things that, as human beings, we need**

 **How a story can link people to an event in the past**

 **The mystery of a miracle, and a story linking people to a time in the past**

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. To help any children with visual timetabling, we include an icon for each different part of this collective worship in the top right corner of each slide.
- There is a join-in story to use this week; you can find the script on p.4-5. You may need to ‘rehearse’ the actions & join-in elements before telling the story together.**
- You will need to:** Use the templates included on p6&7 to print the oranges & lemons, preferably onto card. Punch a hole in each & use opened-out paper clips to hang them up – if you have a prayer tree or similar in your hall, that would work, or put them onto a display board, or laminate them & hang them on trees outside!
- For your class reflection areas:** You will need these templates for your classroom reflection areas as well; you will be modelling the process in this main collective worship.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Welcome stilling exercise – desert landscape

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 here, look at this very different landscape.....and bring your mind into a peaceful place [PAUSE]

As you watch, think about what makes it different from the landscape of our school environment..... [PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....keep this going as you continue to 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.....and think about how peace has come upon us.... [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 are thinking about an ancient journey through a landscape like this, and we will.....**talk about deserts.....tell a story together..... and think together about what this story might mean for our school community – and the wider world.**

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



- **Slides 2/3:** Teach this new greeting to your school community – there are two slightly different versions from the point of view of the leader; choose which best fits your school's context. One uses words adapted from [Psalm 118:24](#)
 - **Leader:** This is a day that God has made!
 - **ALL:** We will rejoice* and be glad* in it!
- OR:
- **Leader:** Today is a brand new day.....
 - **ALL:** May we be a blessing to each other!

*There are different BSL signs for rejoicing and joy/gladness. View them here: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/rejoice>
 Blessing: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/blessing> (1st video)

Engaging:

- **Slide 4: What's it like here?**
Talk together about this landscape – and how different it is (we hope!) from the view from your classroom window!
- **Slide 5:** This term, we are thinking about our blessings – all the good things in our lives. This week, we are going to find out about a very special time for gratitude in Jewish homes and communities – a time that has a very special story which we are all going to share in.
- **Slide 6:** The festival of Sukkot runs this year between dusk on 25th September and dusk on 2nd October. During Sukkot, Jewish families will eat outdoors in shelters that they build out of tree branches, and they'll hang up fruit, like this rather strange-looking lemon, called an 'etrog', to decorate their shelters as a reminder to be thankful and remember...which is a very good message to us as well!
- **Slide 7:** We're going to share together the story families retell at Sukkot, which helps them to remember the time that God's people spent in the desert, on their epic journey to a new home. There are places where you can join in *[use the script, rehearsing the actions together briefly first.]*
- **Slide 8:** I wonder which part of the story you think was the most important to remember? For Jewish people, it's the fact that God provided – in amazing ways – and that they were told to always remember this. That's why we used the words '**God will provide!**'
- **Slide 9:** At this time of year, eating in a sukkah, and being thankful is a really important way in which Jewish families remember. We're going to collect OUR ideas about things we're thankful for now – on these oranges & lemons and hang them up as a reminder for us....*[collect their ideas on the orange/lemon shapes and speak them out loud as you hang the fruit up]*



Responding (and words for worship)

We're going to have some space and time to think now.....
the story we heard today started with God's people complaining....
 ...I wonder if you've ever done this?!.....(of course we have!)
but this story is a reminder that despite the complaining, God still saw what the people needed
 and provided for them....
 In the stillness now...let's think back to some of the things we talked about that **we** are grateful for.....
[name some that you wrote on the oranges/lemons]
many people believe that God still provides in many different ways.....and that it's good to be grateful.....
family.....friends.....school.....love.....health....our blessings



I'm going to do that right now, in a thankyou prayer. Make it yours if you'd like to by joining with me to say the words 'we are grateful' after I say the word 'God' ...or if you'd prefer not to pray, then just sit quietly with your own thoughts.

Dear God,

Slide 10: For food on our tables – **God, we are grateful!**

Slide 11: For love in our hearts – **God, we are grateful!**

Slide 12: For a chance to be grateful – **God we are grateful!**

Slide 13: Amen



Songs to sing:

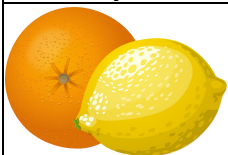
If you fancy some Sukkot songs that use familiar tunes, search [here](#). Or for something a little more lively!!: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=17&v=gODQ0pgR64Y&feature=emb_logo, or something to bop to: https://www.chabad.org/multimedia/music_cdo/aid/2728616/jewish/Sukkot-Dance-Music.htm

Alternatively, make percussion shakers from plastic bottles & rice / peas / pasta (keeping the food theme going!) to accompany Harvest Samba (Out of the Ark) or another school Harvest favourite.

Slide 14: Sending

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

All: May we remember that 'GOD WILL PROVIDE!'



Slide 15: Reflection areas

Create a sukkah in your reflective area, or even better, create an outdoor reflection area for the duration of Sukkot: hang fairy lights, assemble artificial plants / branches and hang up the oranges and lemons from the reflection included in the collective worship.

Talk: About the Sukkot story and the lessons that God's people learned in the desert.

Think: About the things that you are grateful for.

Do: Draw or write your idea onto an orange or lemon shape and hang up in your 'sukkah'

Further ideas to build spirituality, using your classroom reflection areas:

- Watch a short 'Lego Movie'-style video about Sukkot: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=SRHkgWGyn4Y&feature=emb_logo then build sukkahs out of Lego, like you see in the film! If you prefer real people, then try this instead: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=159&v=h_W1pGtIRsY&feature=emb_logo
- On paper plates, craft your 'heaven-sent' meal – with all your favourite foods represented on one side – and a prayer or grateful thought on the other side.
- Have your week of collective worships outside and remember the story of what God provided in the desert and the tents that the Israelites lived in. Talk about how doing worship outside feels different.
- Do the opposite of the Israelites in the desert!: encourage your class to spend the week not complaining about any food they're not keen on but be thankful instead. You could maybe encourage families to try this for the week at home as well.
- Have some 'manna' fun in your class or at home if more appropriate: do blindfolded taste-testing and see if you can guess not 'What is it?' but, 'What it is!'



'God will provide'

Practise the actions that accompany certain words in the story.

When you hear the word...	Action
complained	...say [in a complaining voice] ' <i>moan moan moan!</i> '
tents	...make a tent shape with your hands over the top of your head
quails	...make your hands into little wings and flap like a bird
manna	...do the action for rain, coming down from the sky
Moses told them	...join in with ' GOD WILL PROVIDE! '

The Jewish people had escaped from being slaves in Egypt, where they had been commanded to make bricks in the hot, hot sun for more years than anyone dared to remember. But God had freed them and now God was guiding them, with Moses, their leader, through the desert from Egypt to the new land that God had promised. It was the longest journey that any of them had ever been on. They had to take with them everything they owned, and they camped in a different place every night. So every night, before bed, they had to put up their **tents**.....so that they had somewhere to sleep in the cool night air. For a while, they were happy to be free, and it was a big adventure, sleeping in their **tents**....

...under the stars. But then,.... it started!.....

The Jewish people began to complain.....'***moan moan moan!***' ...about anything and everything! 'It's too hot!'..... 'My feet hurt!'..... 'Are we there yet?!' they complained....'***moan moan moan!***' and then finally - 'At least when we were in Egypt we had food to eat and plenty to drink!' they complained.... '***moan moan moan!***'

It went on for days. God heard what the people were saying and told Moses 'In the evenings, I will give my people meat to eat and in the mornings, I will provide bread for them.' So Moses went back to the people and told them....
"GOD WILL PROVIDE!"

That night, when the Jewish people had put up their **tents**.....an enormous flock of **quails**..... landed. There were **quails**..... as far as their eyes could see! They all looked in complete astonishment at the sight, but Moses told them....
"GOD WILL PROVIDE!" to remind them that God had kept his promise and given them meat to eat! They all went to sleep happy that night!



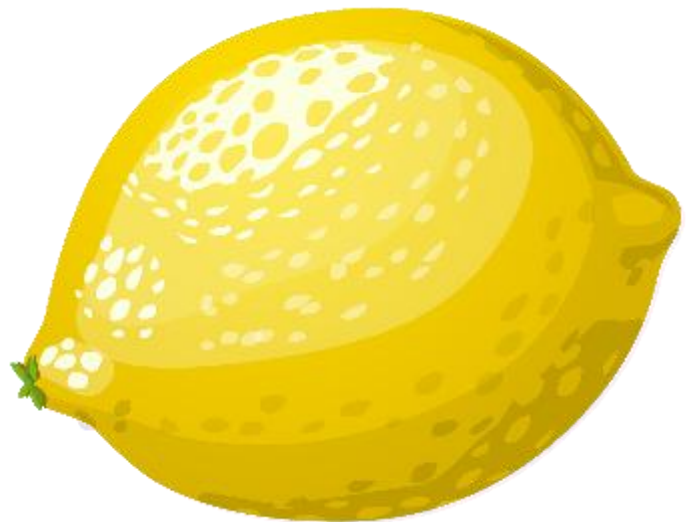
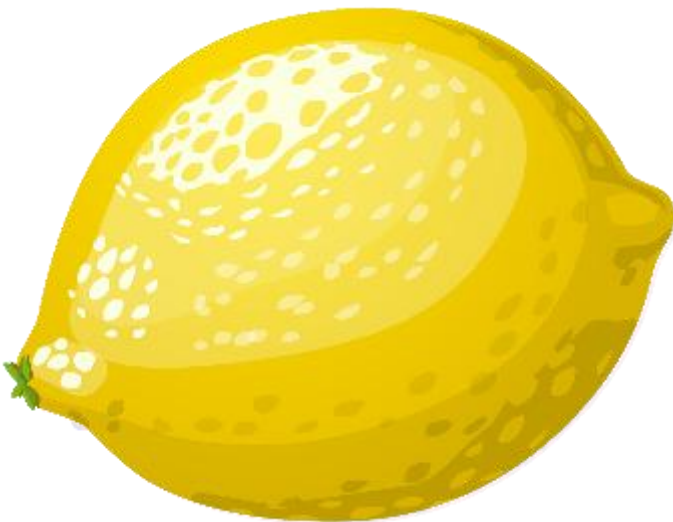
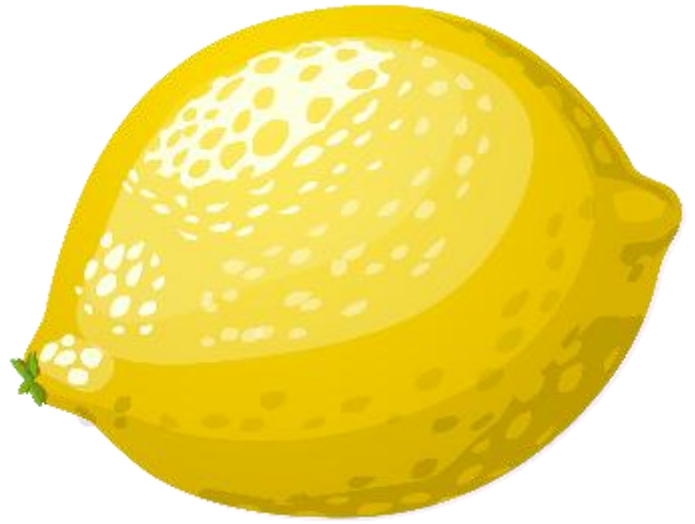
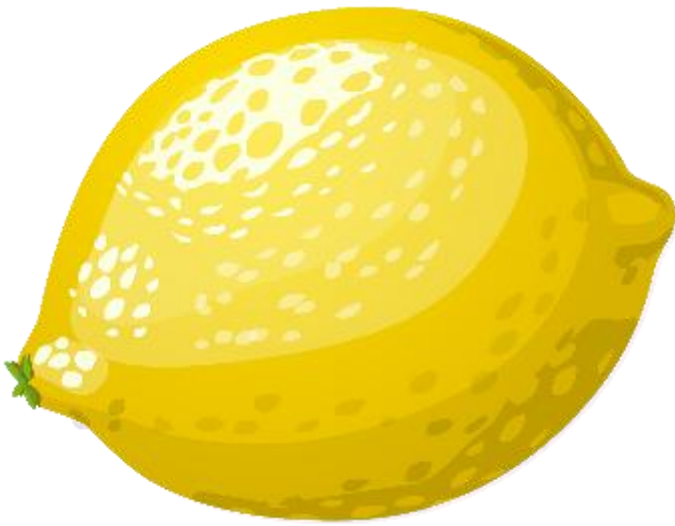
In the morning, when the people came out of their **tents**..... there was a strange, powdery substance lying on the ground, almost as if there had been a frost that night. They called it '**manna**'..... which means 'What is it?' Once more, Moses told them..... **"GOD WILL PROVIDE!"** and commanded them to taste it. When they tasted it, it was as delicious and as filling as bread, and each person collected enough to keep them from being hungry for the whole day. If anyone tried to collect more **manna**.....than they needed, by the next morning, it had gone bad. Once more, Moses told them..... **"GOD WILL PROVIDE!....** He will send you what you need each day, so you don't **need** to store it up!'

And so, every day, the people collected the **manna**..... all except for one day in every week – Shabbat. Shabbat is a special day for Jews because God told them to rest on that day and do no work. That meant no cooking – and no collecting! No **manna**.....fell on that day, so God provided twice as much the day before Shabbat, enough for two days so they didn't go hungry. And it didn't go bad either!!

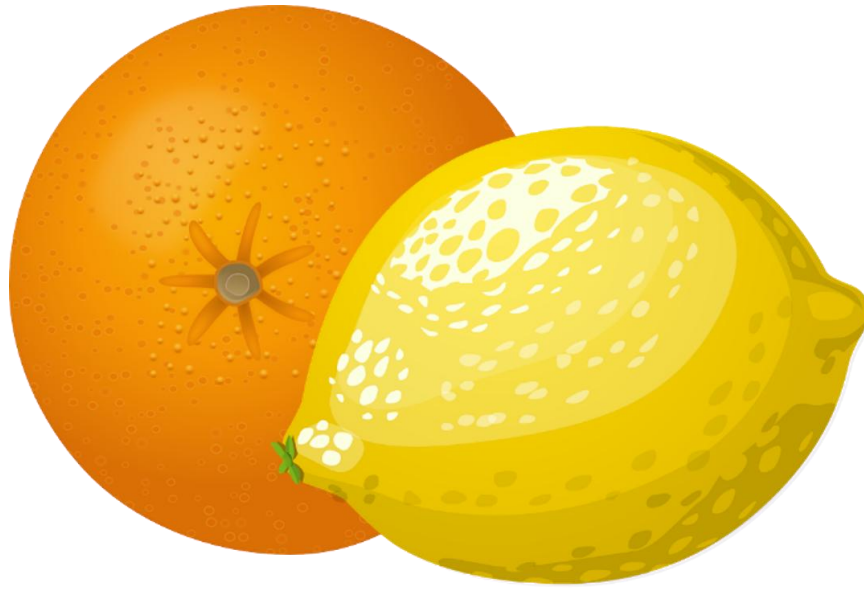
The Jewish people travelled in the desert, living in **tents**.... for 40 years until they reached the land that God had promised them. And each day, God would provide **quails**.....in the morning, and **manna**.... in the evening. Today, Jewish people will tell this story and remember what happened as their ancestors travelled the long journey through the desert, but especially what Moses told them..... **"GOD WILL PROVIDE!"**



Print onto card & cut out







In the desert, the people were told ‘God will provide!’



Talk about the Sukkot story and the lessons that God’s people learned in the desert.



Think about the things that you are grateful for.



Draw or write your idea onto an orange or lemon shape and hang up in your ‘sukkah’

