



6. Going up and coming down

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, we are taking a small break from the focus on parables to mark the birth-day of the Church through the Christian festival of Pentecost. We use the story of Jesus' ascension and the coming of the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, and think about the impact of these events on the lives of the Early Church – and on Christians today. We consider how the Early Church shared all they had with others; we know that this is challenging, and would want children to feel reassured that personal circumstances might make this difficult for some. However, this is precisely the point: those who could share did, in order to be a blessing to those who didn't have.



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**. This week, the focus is on the way that the coming of the **Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit**, had such an impact on the lives of the Early Church. In our materials, we reflect on how this 'help from Heaven' enabled the first church community to share everything, so that no-one was in need, thinking about what this might look like for ourselves, our neighbours and our 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.
- **You will need: a ball (tennis is best, not too bouncy); a Nerf gun; a toy parachute with a small weight attached; a feather; a paper aeroplane – or other science equipment that you can use to demonstrate how gravity works! All these objects will eventually fall to the ground when they are projected into the air, even the feather.**
- **Reflective areas:** You will need a gift box, or box wrapped to look like a gift (you need it to be able to open up) and some small labels, or paper cut in label shapes, to look like gift tags.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Bouncing balls 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 tennis balls as they bounce..... [PAUSE]

Now practise slower breathing.....in.....and out.....in.....and out.....as you watch the movement of balls up and down....[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 **do some more science together, share a story, and then think together.**

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 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:** We're taking a little break today from parables to hear another story about Jesus, but first.....some more science! As you watched the tennis balls bouncing earlier, I wonder if you noticed that some balls were going up and some were coming down? I wonder if you can explain why this was happening? *[allow a few responses, demonstrating with the real tennis ball if needed – it's possible that some children will talk in simple ways about the force of gravity, or about the balls bouncing. Don't worry about children getting this right, because your experiment will help!]*
- **Slide 4:** We're going to do some more simple science together, and conduct our own experiment about going up and coming down. Let's see what you think will happen if I throw some other things into the air... *[repeat experiment with the other objects]* We've found out that "What goes up, must come down." Our theory still works, but a bit more slowly with very light objects like the feather.... We call this idea **gravity**: the force that ensures that what goes up must come down again....and it was discovered by this man...
- **Slide 5:** ...Isaac Newton, in 1666, when he'd wondered why apples always fell to the ground. That big question led to him describing the law of gravity for the very first time! So, keep asking big questions yourselves!!
- **Slide 6:** Our story today is about going up and coming down...and how the disciples were told to wait for something special....As you listen, think about what goes up and what comes down...
- **Slide 7:** Jesus had always told his friends the disciples that he had come **down** from heaven to show them what God, his Father, was like, and that one day he would return to his home, **up** in heaven. Some days after his resurrection, the disciples were all gathered together in Jerusalem. Suddenly Jesus appeared among them, as if out of nowhere.
- **Slide 8:** 'Stay here in Jerusalem', Jesus told them. 'I am going home, **up** to heaven, to be with my Father. But don't worry: my Father will send **down** what he has promised: the Holy Spirit. It's a special gift for you to be your helper, just like me...And don't forget!' he added 'Even though I am going **up** to heaven, I will never leave you: never! I will be with you....always and forever!'
- **Slide 9:** And then, in a blaze of bright light, the friends watched as Jesus left them for the last time and went **up** into heaven.
- **Slide 10:** They watched until he was hidden by the clouds....and then stood, staring at the sky, hardly knowing what to do next.
- **Slide 11:** The friends returned to Jerusalem with a strange sort of happiness in their hearts, as they remembered what Jesus had said about the gift that God would send **down** from heaven – and that he would be with them always.
- **Slide 12:** 10 days later, the friends were again gathered together in Jerusalem, waiting.
- **Slide 13:** Suddenly, they heard the sound of a rushing wind, all around them, and the **Holy Spirit**, the gift Jesus had promised, came **down** from heaven. It rested on their heads, and filled their hearts. It gave them love, and joy, and courage. It was just as Jesus had promised: a little piece of heaven that came **down** to live in their hearts, and helped them to tell the whole world what God had done.
- **Slide 14:** And three thousand people who heard this good news on the day of Pentecost became the very first church.
- **Slide 15:** So, what went up, and what came down? *[ask children]*
Because Jesus went **back up** to heaven, he could **send down** the Holy Spirit to be the special helper not just for the disciples, but for anyone who is a Christian, so that they can follow the ways of God's Kingdom.
God's gift of the Holy Spirit is something that Christians will be celebrating during the first weekend of half term, at Pentecost. Pentecost is known as the **birthday of the Church**, because three thousand people became followers of Jesus on that day – the very first church community.
- **Slide 16:** But what did this actually look like? The Bible says that these first Christians lived as part of God's Kingdom here on earth, just as Jesus had shown them, so what we've seen in our parables might



help us here.....[words animate on one click, one after the other] ...listening to wisdom, old and new.....sowing good 'seeds' in their hearts.....being a place of welcome for all.....doing 'small things with great love'making good choices... so that God's Kingdom on earth would grow. [you might want to talk together about how all these things might have an impact on the life of the Early Church or on actions/behaviour towards others]

Slide 17: Responding (and words for worship)

The Bible also says that the whole community shared everything that they had, so that there was no-one in need. Just think about this for a moment [say it slowly...].....everyone shared everything.....no-one needed anything! [pause for a few moments] This is a challenging idea, but what it meant was that those people who had lots shared with those who had nothing, so that everyone had what they needed.



...in the stillness, let's take some time to think about this.....

...we've heard about the gift of the Holy Spirit that God sent at Pentecost....

...a little piece of heaven that helped the Early Church to live as part of God's Kingdom here on earth....

...we've heard how the very first Christians shared everything that they had....

....so that no-one needed anything....

...I wonder how the gift of God's Holy Spirit helped them to do this?...

...or how different our world might be if everyone shared everything with others?...

...I wonder what we might share as part of this community?....

...and how this might change our world?...

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. There's a part that you can join in with if you would like to ...or if you'd prefer not to pray, then you can continue to sit quietly with your own thoughts. If you want to join me, then the words are very simply 'Help us to share'....

Slide 19: God, who has shared everything with us,

Slide 20: '...help us to share.'

Slide 21: With our friends and in our families,

Slide 22: '...help us to share.'

Slide 23: When we see someone in need,

Slide 24: '...help us to share.'

Slide 25: Even when it's difficult,

Slide 26: '...help us to share.'

Slide 27: Amen.

Sending: Slide 27

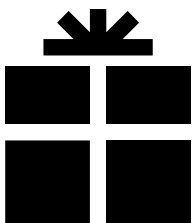
Leader: As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

All: May we be willing to share!



To sing / listen to:

[Chain of love](#) (BBC)



Slide 28: Reflective areas

You will need a gift box and some small gift tags.

Think: Think of something that you might share with others.

Talk: Talk about how it feels to share. Is it easy or difficult? Are some things easier to share than other things?

Do: Write or draw on a small gift label then put it inside the boxyou might like to ask God to help you to share.





When Jesus said goodbye, he sent his followers a very special gift...a gift that would be their helper...a little piece of heaven in their hearts. This helped the very first Christians to share everything they had with each other....



Think of something that you might share with others.



Talk about how it feels to share. Is it easy or difficult? Are some things easier to share than other things?



Write or draw on a small gift label then put it inside the boxyou might like to ask God to help you to share.

