



6. The Generous Dragons

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. **This assembly marks the celebration of Lunar New Year – and takes the opportunity to reflect on the important value of generosity, which is a concept that crosses across cultural and religious boundaries.** 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.



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

Use this section to reference your school’s values with the concept of **generosity**. These materials also include sacred texts from six major religions, all about being generous. You might like to talk about why this is such an important value across such diverse religions [slides 18-21 & to print on p.9-10].

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.
- **Slide 18 is an optional slide** which some schools may like to use to further stretch children’s understanding of generosity, using some words of St Paul ‘Be generous on every occasion.’ Omit if you prefer.
- **Reflection areas:** use the resources on p.5-8 to print out cards to help children to think about being generous and put in your reflective area. Encourage pupils to write onto red paper some ideas they have about generous acts they could offer to do for others & fold up to make an ‘envelope’. You might want to use the words from different religious traditions on p.9-10 (which are also on slides 22-24 at the end of the PowerPoint), or just put a sentence starter: ‘A generous person.....’ to help children to suggest their own ideas.
- **Find out how Chinese families celebrate the New Year** and why each new year is named after an animal: [Chinese and Lunar New Year - CBeebies - BBC](#). Think about the things that might be important to children and parents as they celebrate together.
- **Make a Lunar New Year dragon** following the instructions here: [Lunar New Year Dragon - CBeebies - BBC](#) and leave it somewhere to remind you to be generous with others ‘, or write one of the messages about being generous on the dragon’s ‘scales’.

Gathering:

- **Slide 1:** Use our gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer.



Engaging:

- **Slide 2: Let’s start today with our Wise Words**
- **Slide 3: ‘A generous person will themselves be blessed.’ [Proverbs 22:9]** ‘What does it mean to be generous?’ [*Pause and talk together*] This word is going to be very important for our time together today.
- **Slide 4:** In our collective worship today, we are going to be thinking about Lunar New Year, sometimes called ‘Chinese New Year’.
- **Slide 5:** All over the world, people will be wishing each other ‘Gung Hey Fat Choy!’, Happy New Year! There are lots of different traditions, such as hanging out lanterns, lucky red envelopes, and wearing new clothes – especially red ones!
- **Slide 6:** Each new year takes the name of a different animal – this year it’s the Year of the Dragon. There are lots of traditional stories about why this happens, but we’re not going to be thinking about these stories today....although we ARE going to have a story about some dragons!
- **Slide 7:** Another traditional thing that you might see at Lunar New Year is a dragon dance. It’s believed that dragons are friendly and helpful creatures, associated with strength, good fortune, wisdom and long life, not scary fire-breathers as you might think! We’re going to hear a legend from China about some dragons now.
- **Slide 8:** It’s called ‘The Generous Dragons’ and it will help us to think and reflect together later. As you listen, think about where you see generosity in the story.... [*use script and pictures slides 9-15*] If time allows, come back to this question after the story for further discussion.
- **Slide 16:** At the start of our time together, we were talking about some of the different customs of Lunar New Year. Another tradition is that the older people in the family will give red envelopes to the younger members of



the family, with 'lucky money' inside for them to spend or save. We're going to end our assembly with a game using 'red envelopes'. Now these are not proper 'red envelopes', with real lucky money, but there's something inside each red envelope to remind us of Lunar New Year and to help us think. In the story, we heard about the generous actions of the four dragons and these envelopes are going to help us to think more about what it means to be generous. *[Use the envelopes and cards]* I wonder how these ideas might help us today – and throughout half term?

Responding (and words for worship): Slide 17

Let's be still and quiet together now....
....we've been thinking about generosity today....
....we shared a story about the generous actions of the dragons....
....and shared some thoughts about being a generous person....
...generosity is a really important part of Eastern cultures and traditions...
...but is also shared by many other communities across the world....
Let's go back to the wise words we started with....
'A generous person will themselves be blessed.'
.....I wonder why this is?.....
....I wonder if being generous might help others to be generous?.....
....and why being generous is such an important part of Lunar New Year?....



Slide 18 [optional]: A man named Paul, who was one of the very first Christians wrote these words to the people of one of the very first churches: **'Be generous on every occasion'**....

....I wonder what this might mean for you today...and during half term?.....

[Allow plenty of time for reflection]

Being generous all the time is not always easy! I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now, asking God to help us. If you'd like to, find a way to make this prayer your own – or if you'd prefer, then continue to be still with your own thoughts....

Prayer: Slide 19

Dear God

Thank you for the time we've spent today thinking about what it means to be generous. We like it when people are generous towards us, but please help us to find ways to be generous to those around us, as often as possible – to our family, our friends, in our wider communities, and to anyone who needs it.

Amen

Sending: Slide 20

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:

[The Golden Rule](#) (NBD) or [Chain of love](#) (AAOS)

Although a slightly different phonetic English spelling, the song [Kong Hei Fatt Choy - Lunar New Year Song - YouTube](#) also contains some interesting information about preparing for and celebrating Lunar New Year. Or if you prefer, there is some Chinese music here: [Beautiful Chinese Music | Lunar New Year | Instrumental Traditional Chinese Music - YouTube](#)



Reflection areas: Make lucky red envelopes using the resources on p.5-8 to print out cards to help children to think about being generous and put in your reflective area. Encourage pupils to write onto red paper some ideas they have about generous acts they could offer to do for others & fold up to make an 'envelope'. You might want to use the words from different religious traditions on p.9-10 (which are also on slides 22-24 at the end of the PowerPoint), or just put a sentence starter: 'A generous person.....' to help children to

suggest their own ideas.

Why not send this idea out to families to use one a day during half term – and suggest that they agree



generous actions together that would make a difference to their family? Make sure it's something you can actually do!

The Generous Dragons

Slide 9: Long, long ago, there were no rivers or lakes on the earth, but only the great Eastern Sea. Four dragons lived in it – the Long Dragon, the Black Dragon, the Yellow Dragon and the Pearl Dragon. They were all wise and generous creatures and they loved to fly, high in the sky, soaring above the sea and out over the land. One day, they looked down and saw something they had never seen before.

Slide 10: The land which had once been green and fertile was now brown and parched, because there had been no rain for a long time. The people who lived on it were looking hungry and worried, and the dragons wanted to do something to help.

'How poor the people are!' the Yellow Dragon exclaimed. 'If they don't have rain soon, they will have no food to eat.' So the dragons decided to go and see the Jade Emperor to beg him for rain and soared high into the clouds to find the Heavenly Palace.

Slide 11: They presented their case to the Jade Emperor, pleading for him to send rain to the villagers so that they might grow food to eat. Now unfortunately, the Jade Emperor wasn't the kindest of rulers. 'OK' he said, 'You go down first and I'll send rain tomorrow.' The dragons gratefully thanked the Emperor and flew away happy. But tomorrow came, and there was no rain, or the day after, or the day after that. Ten days passed, and the people of the village were running out of food to eat and water to drink. The four dragons saw all this, and were saddened. They knew that the Emperor had forgotten his promise, and so decided to do something about it themselves.

Slide 12: 'There is plenty of water in the Eastern Sea, where we live!' the Long Dragon said. 'Let's scoop it up and spray it down over the village, and it will look like rain, and the people won't die!!'

'That's a great idea!' the other dragons exclaimed, but then they thought deeply for a moment. 'If the Emperor finds out we have done this, we'll be in trouble...'

But they decided that it was more important to save the people, and so off they flew, back to the Eastern Sea, and began to scoop up water in their mouths to spray out over the earth.

Slide 13: They flew backwards and forwards, high up into the sky doing this until the sky became dark and the sea water became rain pouring out of the sky.

'It's raining! It's raining !' the people shouted, and knew they had been saved.



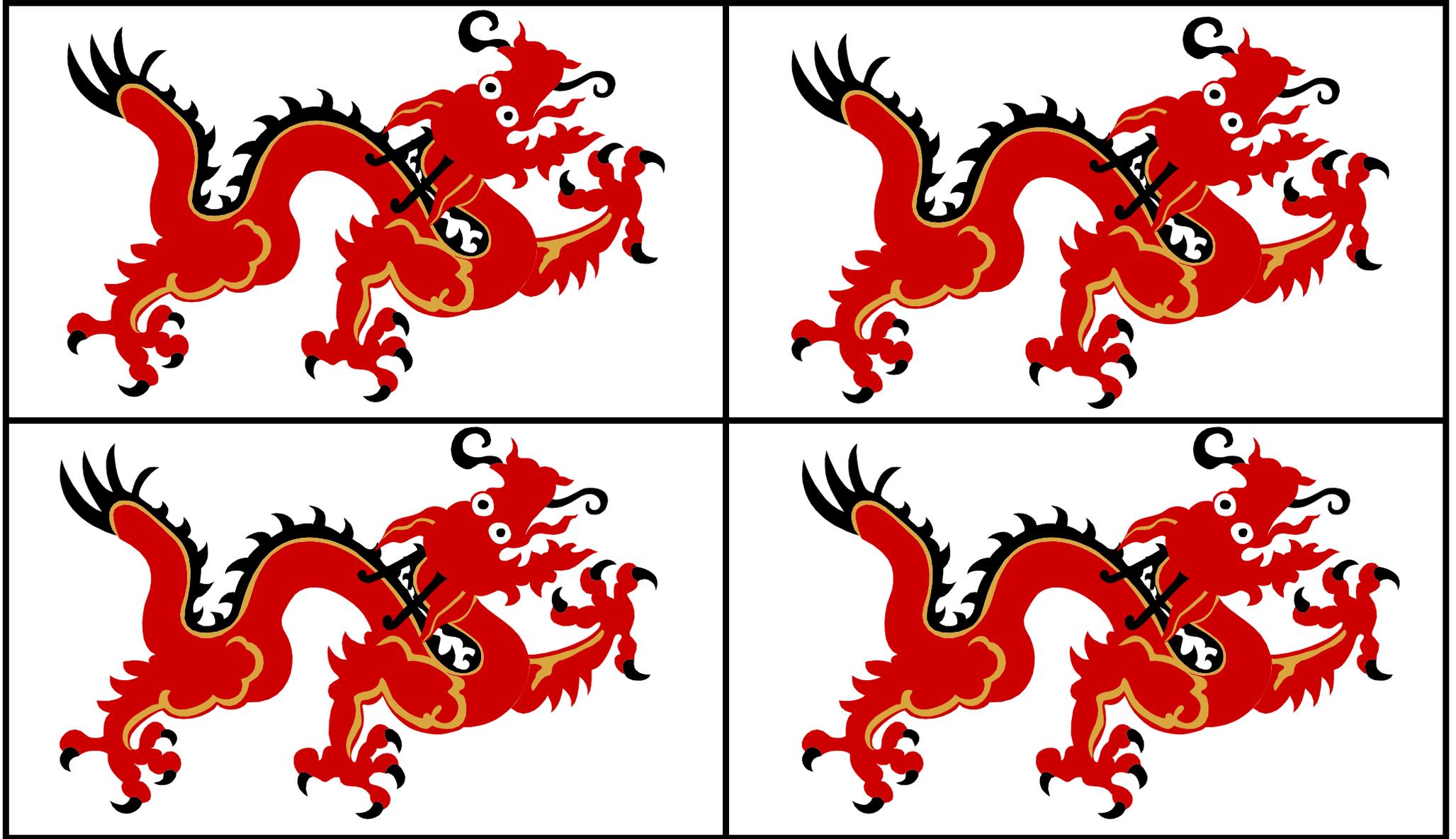
But the Jade Emperor found out about the generous deed of the four dragons and decided to punish them for interfering. He gathered his army and they brought the dragons to the Palace.

Slide 14: 'Go and find four mountains' he ordered. 'Then lay the mountains on them so that they can never escape!'

And that's what happened, but the dragons were still glad that they had saved the villagers. Even as they were, stuck under the mountains, they decided to do one last good deed to help the people.

Slide 15: They turned themselves into four rivers to give the people of China water forever. And that's the legend of how China's four great rivers were formed, thanks to the selfless actions of the Four Dragons.





Wise Words

6. The Generous Dragons

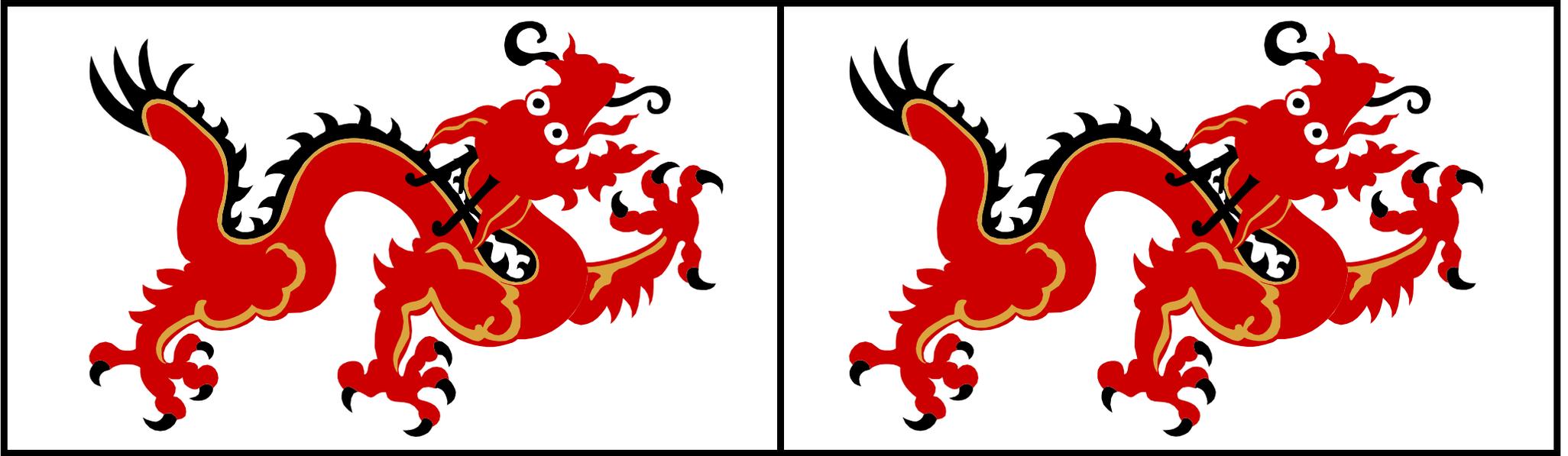
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Wise Words



Wise Words



Wise Words

6. The Generous Dragons

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Wise Words



Wise Words

A generous person
helps other people.

A generous person
gives time to others.

A generous person
doesn't think about
themselves.

A generous person
puts other people's
feelings first.



A generous person is
kind to others.



**‘Generosity brings
happiness’**
Siddattha Gotama (Buddha)

**‘Do not turn away a poor
man...even if all you can
give is half a date’**
Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) [Islam]

**‘...generosity consists not in
the sum given, but the
manner in which it is given....’**
Mahatma Gandhi [Hinduism]

**‘...be generous on every
occasion...’**
2 Corinthians 9:11 [Christianity]





“A generous person will themselves be blessed.”



Think about what it means to be a generous person.



Talk together about times when someone has been generous to you. How did it make you feel? Did it help you to be generous to someone else?



Think of something you could do to be generous to someone else, maybe over half term. Write your idea on lucky red paper & put it in an envelope.

