



## Collective Worship, Summer Term 2026: 'Stories that help us to grow.....'

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. We start our term using a number of parables told by Jesus (mostly from Matthew 13), featuring some images from different parts of the world to highlight the universal power of these stories to help us to think and to shape our behaviour. Later in the term, we will continue with a collection of traditional stories from across the world that also have messages that may help to shape the way we behave; whilst these may come from different cultures and traditions, these are always presented in a way that shows their deep connections with ideas from the Bible. And finally, we return to a final parable that you could use as a Leavers' service idea in the last week of term.

Week	Theme	Details / follow-up	Bible content*	Reflection ideas	Song** ( <i>new songs in italics</i> )
1 (13.4.26)	<b>The power of a story</b>	A reflective story about the power of storytelling to communicate ideas....including parables	<a href="#">Matthew 13:35</a>	Make a class collection of stories that help us know how to live.....	<a href="#">We will grow</a> (BBC) or <a href="#">Together / Shine</a> (NBD)
2 (20.4.26)	<b>Growing well</b>	Parable of the Sower, part 1	<a href="#">Matthew 13:1-9 &amp; 18-23</a> & <a href="#">Psalm 19:14</a>	School value seeds or seed prayers	<a href="#">While we live, we learn</a> (BBC) or <a href="#">City on a hill</a> (NBD)
3 (27.4.26)	<b>A place of welcome</b>	Parable of the mustard seed	<a href="#">Matthew 13:31-32</a>	Mustard seed reflection	<a href="#">Shine</a> (NBD) or <a href="#">Welcome</a> (BBC)
4 (5.5.26)	<b>Agent of change</b>	Parable of the yeast	<a href="#">Matthew 13:33</a>	Challenge cards in mixing bowl	<a href="#">Let our love show</a> (NBD) or <a href="#">City on a hill</a> (NBD)
5 (11.5.26)	<b>Good fish, bad fish</b>	Parable of the net reflective story	<a href="#">Matthew 13:47-49</a>	Play the fishing game – add your own 'good fish' ideas	<a href="#">The Sharing Song</a> (NBD)
6 (18.5.26)	<b>Going up and coming down</b>	Ascension Day (May 14 <sup>th</sup> ) & Pentecost (May 24 <sup>th</sup> ): the worldwide church is born	<a href="#">Acts 1:9-11</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 2:1-12</a>	Pentecost gift box: add your own small label – finding help	<a href="#">Chain of love</a> (BBC)
<b>HALF TERM (25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May)</b>					
7 (1.6.26)	<b>Growing good fruit</b>	Parable of the Sower, part 2	<a href="#">Galatians 5:22-23</a>	Fruit in a fruit bowl: reflecting on the fruits of the Spirit	<a href="#">The Golden Rule</a> (NBD) or <a href="#">The Kindness Song</a> (NBD)
8 (8.6.26)	<b>A united body</b>	An ancient fable (Aesop – and St. Paul!) about working together	<a href="#">1 Corinthians 12:14-21</a>	Put a simple jigsaw in your reflective area – as you 'rebuild'	<a href="#">Together</a> (BBC)



				it, think about how we could work better together	
9 (15.6.26)	<b>Sticks and stones</b>	A traditional tale from France about words	<a href="#">James 3:5</a>	Jewel reflections: speaking positive words	<a href="#">Build up</a> (BBC)
10 (22.6.26)	<b>Why the moon is sad</b>	A traditional tale from Algeria about empathy	<a href="#">Romans 12:15</a> & <a href="#">Psalm 56:8 (CEV)</a>	Tears in a bottle: how can our emotions help to feel empathy?	<a href="#">Being a friend</a> (BBC)
11 (29.6.26)	<b>The brave kiwi</b>	A traditional story about the kiwi, whose selfless act explains why he lives on the forest floor	<a href="#">Matthew 23:11-12</a>	The secret giveaway – how many selfless acts can we do for others, even if no one notices?!	<a href="#">The Kindness Song</a> (NBD)
12 (6.7.26)	<b>The frog who wouldn't share</b>	A traditional tale from Australia about greed (environmental and other...)	<a href="#">1 Timothy 6:18</a>	Glass pebbles – being extra careful with water this week	<a href="#">One world</a> (NBD)
13 (13.7.26)	<b>The fragile gift</b>	A reflective story based on a modern cautionary tale about caring for our world ( <i>Terry Jones, 1981</i> )	<a href="#">Genesis 2:8&amp;15</a>	Plasters on the world (Eco Day reflection)	<a href="#">One world</a> (NBD)
14 (20.7.26)	<b>Building well</b>	A final parable: the two builders – messages to take away and live by. Leavers' service adaptation	<a href="#">Matthew 7:24-27</a>	Wise words on a wall: build a wall of positive messages	<a href="#">Our Farewell Song</a> or <a href="#">Every step</a> (NBD) To listen to: <a href="#">The Rock</a> (NBD) or <a href="#">May the road rise up to meet you</a>

**\*\* Please check words to songs before you use them!** We are using some familiar and some new Nick and Becky Drake songs across this term: [The Sharing Song](#) / [The Kindness Song](#) / [The Rock](#) / [Our Farewell Song](#) but do feel free to substitute from your own school collection if you need more variety! [City on a hill](#) is not new, but we haven't used it for a while.

**Song references:** BBC – BBC resources, links to online version; NBD – Nick & Becky Drake songs. POPUK – free access to a huge songbank, which you can use to find alternatives: [FREE song bank | for primary schools](#)

*\*Incidentally, the [Primary Difference](#) project, authored by the National Society, celebrates this life-changing power through many of its resources, helping pupils of all ages to explore stories that are both challenging and beautiful, and supporting their spiritual development.*

**\* OPTIONAL:** You may wish to use any Bible words we reference in the script regularly in the collective worship, or throughout the week, in addition to the place that they are explored as part of the 'Words for worship' section. In this way, you might encourage children to think how these words might be relevant to this term's theme, or specifically to your school community, which may be especially relevant for Church schools. You might like to use these questions:

- *I wonder what you think these words mean?*
- *I wonder how these words might connect with today's story or our school's vision & values?*
- *I wonder how these words might help us in the life of our school? Or our relationships with other people?*
- *I wonder what these words might show us about God – or the spiritual life of our school?*

