



# **Collective Worship Pack**

## **Autumn Term 2021**



## **UPSIDE DOWN**

### **Collective Worship for the Autumn Term**

#### **Introduction**

This Collective Worship Pack aims to inspire, encourage and engage children in discovering how if we turn our thinking upside down and live life from God's perspective then we can change the world and experience true happiness! Jesus said and did many things people didn't expect to see or hear, some considered his ideas to be upside down and strange but as we take a closer look at some of the things he said and did we can discover that God's topsy turvy plan for us is so upside down it's the right way up!

Throughout this series we will look at seeing things from other perspectives. As we look at Bible characters like Zaccheus we will learn the importance of respecting one another, and how no matter what the world promises us, we can be happy when we learn to appreciate and value the things we have in life and share what we have with others.

When people chose to put their faith in Jesus, they found that what he was actually saying made a lot of sense. He was describing the world from a different perspective, one that was full of hope and love for everyone.

As we consider the concepts of being meek or weak, first or last, rich or poor, happy or sad, near or far, we will encourage children to think about other people's feelings and needs before their own, valuing others and treating each other equally, as well as having the strength and courage to do and say the right thing which might be upside down but it could make a big difference to their own happiness and that of the people around them.

The final worship in the pack is a Christmas Assembly, where God's plan for the birth of his son were not quite what you would expect for the King of Kings! We might not always understand why things in life happen as they do, but Christians believe God's plan was perfect. God's upside love came down to earth for everyone and Jesus came to show us how we can turn our lives upside down and make a change for the better.

During a year which has been completely upside down for many children we hope that this pack will help children understand some of the ways in which they can experience genuine happiness, love and hope for the future, and start to be able to see the world and the people in it from God's perspective, knowing that God has a perfect plan for their lives too.



**UPSIDE DOWN** worship this term will encourage children to ...

**DISCOVER:** true happiness by turning our thinking upside down to live life from God's perspective.

**ENGAGE:** with child friendly Bible stories, a song, games and activities which help children understand the key themes and values.

**EXPLORE:** the different thoughts and emotions they feel and be given time to reflect on these.

**BE INSPIRED:** to have hope for the future and to help bring hope to others through some of the Upside Down things Jesus said and did that can make a difference.

**UPSIDE DOWN - Autumn 2021** worship pack will be followed by ...

**INSIDE OUT - Spring Term 2022** focusing on our thoughts, feelings & emotions and...

**ABOVE & BEYOND - Summer Term 2022** worship on the theme of achieving our full potential and moving on confidently.

### **Multi-Media Worship Pack Resources**

Each worship session in this pack is accompanied with a 'Thoughts on ...' PDF Resource sheet available on the resources section of our website:

<https://spinnaker.org.uk>. It is free to use whenever and wherever appropriate in your school day. It can be used as a class assembly and includes activities to do, ideas to discuss and thoughts to reflect on.

### **Reflection and prayer**

We have focused on reflections that can be used in most settings. There are prayers which should only be used with prior permission from the school and must be used sensitively. Remember that many children, even in a faith school are not Christian so you should always give children the option to listen to the prayer, rather than praying with you. Saying something along the following lines, gives children the opportunity to opt-in to the prayer. E.g. "I am going to talk to God by reading a prayer. If you would like to make this prayer your own, you can say, 'Amen' at the end."

### **Contributors**

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## UPSIDE DOWN THEME SONG – by Jessica-Ann Jenner

This theme song can either be played as children enter and leave the assembly room/hall or it can be taught to the children to join in and sing. Each verse links to the worship packs themes for the whole year. [Click here and find the song on our Upside Down YouTube Playlist.](#)

1. What would life be like if we turned it upside-down?  
If the town was in the country and the country in the town?  
If north was south, and south was north, and we all walked on our heads?  
Could we turn our thinking upside-down and change the world instead ...

Like a sloth or a bat or a monkey in a tree  
Turn yourself upside down and see what you can be!  
Live your life like Jesus did although it may seem strange.  
We can turn the whole world upside down and we can make a change!  
We can turn the whole world upside down and we can make a change!

Oh....

2. What would life be like if we turned it inside out?  
If there was nothing hidden, out was in and in was out?  
If your brain was on the outside and your head was full of hair? Ergh!  
Could we wear our heart for all to see and show the world we care?

Don't be a mollusc or an oyster or a scallop or a snail.  
Squishy on the inside with a thick, hard shell.  
Fill yourself with solid faith and throw away your doubt.  
We can fill the whole world up with love if we live inside out!  
We can fill the whole world up with love if we live inside out!

Oh...

3. What would life be like if we seek for something more?  
If we fix our eyes on heaven while our feet are on the floor?  
If we do the best we can, and forgive when we are wrong.  
When we put the needs of others first, we go above and beyond!

Like a bee or an ant, be a player in the team.  
Live like a salmon and go against the stream.  
Fly like an eagle soaring high above the clouds.  
When we live our life above and beyond then we can change the world!  
If we live our life above and beyond...inside out ...upside down...  
Then we can change the world!



|   | Title                     | Story   | Theme/Values/Keywords  |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Upside Down Introduction  | An Upside Down Tale & Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-6   | Upside Down begins with the story of Bat. All the other animals thought that he was really strange until they tried hanging upside down and looking at the world from bat's perspective, then the strange things he said didn't seem so strange after all. As we introduce children to the concept of perception we consider how some of the things Jesus said and did may also seem very strange. When Zaccheus chose to put his faith in Jesus he found out that what Jesus was saying actually made a lot of sense. How seeing the world from God's perspective gave him hope and love and it turned his life upside down for the better. This worship encourages children to understand and respect that we are all different and to see things from different perspectives. Christians try to see the world and the people in it from God's perspective.<br><b>Perspective, New start, Hope, Respect, Change.</b> |
| 2 | Upside Down Meek or Weak? | Jesus & Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10  | Jesus said that people who are meek are happy. How can that be? A lot of people think meek means weak. Someone who is meek is actually a very strong person. A meek person is gentle and humble, they don't look down on other people but value them and see them as equal. As we continue to hear the story of Zaccheus we find out how he wanted to change from being weak to meek. Do you have the strength and courage to do and say the right thing, even when it is hard?<br><b>Being meek is being strong, valuing others and treating them equally.</b>  |
| 3 | Upside Down Rich or Poor? | Joe and the Button Factory (based on the Parable of the Rich Farmer – Luke 12:13-21)<br><br>Jesus & Zacchaeus<br><br>Luke 19:1-10 | Jesus said "Blessed are those who have nothing." Jesus knew that money was one of the things people can make a big mistake about. They can get things upside down in thinking that the more money they have, the happier they will be. In our final part of the Zaccheus story, Zac found something far more precious than gold or silver, he met Jesus and now wanted to be more like him. We also hear the song & story of Joe working in a button factory. He learnt to appreciate things in life which give lasting happiness - friends & family. This worship encourages children to turn their thinking upside down and become people who appreciate and share what we have with others.<br><b>Appreciation, sharing, happiness, Harvest.</b>  |



|   |                               |   |   |
|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 4 | Upside Down<br>Happy or Sad?  | David mourns Saul & Jonathan<br><br>2 Samuel 1:23-27  | Jesus said "Blessed are those who mourn". What was he thinking?! Surely there can't be anything good about being sad or upset? But turn that thought upside down as Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn because they will be comforted." Through a fun game of things we find most comforting and the story of David mourning the loss of Saul and Jonathan children will be encouraged to know that even during sad times we are never alone. There are friends, family and teachers who can comfort us when we are sad, and Christians believe we can always talk to God. He wants to comfort us. <b>Comfort, Care, Sadness, Mourning, Loss, Grief, Bereavement, Love.</b> |
| 5 | Upside Down<br>First or Last? | Who is the greatest?<br><br>Mark 9:33-37              | Life is full of competition and trying to be the best, but Jesus said something quite upside down. He said, "Those who are last now will someday be first. And those who are first now will someday be last." As we explore this teaching, we encourage children to think of a time when they've put someone else first, or let them have something they wanted, or when they shared something. It can be a hard thing to do, and it might seem upside down, but it can make you feel really happy! <b>Humility, Sharing, Putting other's first, Cooperation, Care.</b>   |
| 6 | Upside Down<br>Near or Far?   | The Little Children and Jesus<br><br>Matthew 19:13-15 | Sometimes people and objects may seem far away and yet they may also feel near to us. This worship demonstrates the upside down thought that we can be near to God, even though they may seem far away. Through the story of Jesus inviting the children to come to him, we hear how Christians believe that ALL people are important to God and that He wants to draw near to us. <b>Love, Equality, Perspective, Prayer, Communication.</b>   |
| 7 | Upside Down<br>Christmas      | The Christmas Story<br><br>Luke 1-2 & Matthew 1-2     | God's plan for the birth of his son is not quite what you would expect for the King of Kings! His plan to most people would be considered completely upside down – born in a stable, unexpected visitors and very strange gifts! We might not always understand why things happen as they do, but Christians believe God's plan was perfect. God's love came down to earth for everyone, and Jesus came to show us how we can turn our topsy turvy lives UPSIDE DOWN! <b>Hope, Love, Gifts, Plans, Change, Trust, Faith</b>   |



## 1. Upside Down - Introduction

**Theme/Values/Keywords:** Upside Down begins with the story of Bat. All the other animals thought that he was really strange until they tried hanging upside down and looking at the world from bat's perspective, then the strange things he said didn't seem so strange after all. As we introduce children to the concept of perception we consider how some of the things Jesus said and did may also seem very strange. When Zaccheus chose to put his faith in Jesus he found out that what Jesus was saying actually made a lot of sense. How seeing the world from God's perspective gave him hope and love and it turned his life upside down for the better. This worship encourages children to understand and respect that we are all different and to see things from different perspectives. Christians try to see the world and the people in it from God's perspective. **Perspective, New start, Hope, Respect, Change.**

**Bible reference:** Jesus & Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-6

**Key Stage Relevance:** KS1 & 2

**Resources:** Inflatable beach ball, Optical Illusion pictures

**Upside Down Song:** Play as children are entering the assembly.

**Introduction:** I hope you enjoyed the song?! I wonder, what would life be like if we turned it upside down?!!

Have you heard the story about the bat? No?

Well, there was this bat, and he was new in town. All the other animals thought that he was really strange, he kept on getting things upside down. For instance, it was raining and one of the animals offered bat an umbrella. But he replied, "oh thanks that will keep me nice and dry, the raindrops have been tickling my feet all morning."

On another occasion, when it was sunny, one of the animals offered him a hat (you know to keep the sun off its head). "Oh no thank you," said bat "it will only fall off into the grass above."

The grass above! What on earth are you talking about you crazy bat, thought all the animals. Even though they couldn't quite make sense of him, the animals kept coming to see bat. They were all very neighbourly but also, they were rather curious and wanted to hear what strange things he may say next.

So, what happened? Well in the end it turned out that bat wasn't crazy at all he was just ... well batty. You see he liked to hang by his feet from a branch, of course that's just what bats do.

It took one of the wiser animals to point out to the rest of them that if they tried hanging upside down and looking at the world from bat's perspective, then the things that he said didn't seem quite so strange after all.

Our perspective is the way that we look at things, our point of view. Jesus often seemed to look at things quite differently to others. In this series of assemblies, we are going to look at some of the "upside down" things that He said. We are going to ask why they seemed odd, what could he have meant, and we will also try to understand how Jesus might make a lot of sense to us after all.



**Turn that Thought Upside Down:** Perspective is a particular way of seeing something or a point of view. If I hold this beach ball up in the air, I can only see the red and white colours, you may only be able to see the blue and white colours from your perspective. If we are asked what colour the ball is, we are both right, but it depends on our perspective, and actually sometimes you need to stand in a different position to see and understand the whole picture.

**Game/Activity:** What do you see in the optical illusion pictures?

**Main Content:** Those pictures are a lot of fun. I could look at them for hours. That's a bit like what the animals thought about bat! What will we see or hear next?

It was a bit like that with Jesus too. Many of the things that he said seemed strange to those around him. Some even said that he was crazy. But he didn't act like a crazy person. When people chose to put their faith in him, they found that what he was saying actually made a lot of sense. He was describing the world from a different perspective, one that was full of hope for the hopeless and love for the unwanted.

**Bible Story:** Jesus & Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1-6

When people heard that Jesus was in town, they all crowded into the streets to get close to him. He was getting kind of famous. Now, there was a man called Zacchaeus who reeeeeally wanted to see Jesus and to hear what he had to say. The problem was, well actually there were two problems... or was it three. Anyway.

Number one: Zak was short, not just short for his age (he was a grown up and not getting any taller) - but short.

Number two: Zak was not popular, quite the opposite in fact. If he was seen in the crowd, he would likely get in trouble (we might be hearing more about why that was in another assembly).

However, Zak was smart, and he knew how to look after himself, so he came up with a plan. He decided to climb up a tree and hide in the branches so that he could look down on Jesus without being seen.

Now, Zak was used to looking up at people. That came from being short - but also because his job involved him sitting down while people came to him and handed over their money. You see, he didn't look up TO people, like you or I might look up to a teacher or a parent or another really inspiring person. That is what we say when we respect a person. No, Zak looked up AT people (straight up their hairy noses), he didn't respect or value them.

Strangely, as Zak peered down at Jesus from the tree, he didn't look down ON him (like when we think that we are better than somebody else? That is how he had always looked at others. Instead, he saw something in Jesus that amazed him. In fact, he got the distinct impression that Jesus was stood right by him looking him in the eye. All of a sudden, it happened. Jesus turned around, looked straight at Zak and said his name. Not in an angry voice, or a mocking voice... Zak was used to that. No, Jesus said his name in a friendly voice. Like he was pleased to see him.



**Pupil Response:** I love the story of Zacchaeus; it seems a shame to leave it there. I promise we will come back to him next time.

As Zak sat in the tree something happened to him. I don't think that he hung upside down from the branch like the bat from earlier, but something happened that changed his perspective. Not just of Jesus, but of himself and the people around him.

What do you think happened to him and why?

- He began to see things from a new perspective.
- He listening to Jesus.
- He started to show respect for what Jesus was saying and no longer looked down on people.

**Reflection:** Our perspective, and the way we see the world is often different to those around us. All our differences add up to shape how we see things. It can be really helpful to hear another person's perspective on things, but you can't do that if you are looking down on them, if you think you are better than they are.

There are also things that we might not be aware of about ourselves, such as what our voice sounds like, how we smell, or whether we have some salad stuck to our tooth! So, it's good to listen to friends and people around us who care about us and who want us to change for the better.

As we think about these things have a good look at yourself and ask yourself these questions...

Do I value and listen to the views of other people?

Do I show love and respect to others who see things from a different perspective?

Do I care about my friends to help them change for the better?

Christians believe that by seeing things from God's perspective can bring us hope and happiness.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you that we are all different and see things from different perspectives. Help us to respect other's even when they see things differently from us and help us to see the world and the people in it through your eyes. Amen.



## 2. Upside Down: Meek or Weak?

**Themes/Values/Keywords:** Jesus said that people who are meek are happy. How can that be? A lot of people think meek means weak. Someone who is meek is actually a very strong person. A meek person is gentle and humble, they don't look down on other people but value them and see them as equal. As we continue to hear the story of Zaccheus we find out how he wanted to change from being weak to meek. Do you have the strength and courage to do and say the right thing, even when it is hard? **Being meek is being strong, valuing others and treating them equally.**

**Bible reference: Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)**

**Key Stage Relevance:** KS1 & KS2

**Resources:** Card with words 'weak' and 'meek'

**Introduction:** We've thought before about looking at things differently, like when things are upside down. Jesus did and said things people didn't expect to see or hear. Jesus taught people to look at things in a different way. It probably felt like upside down thinking. But people loved listening to Jesus and when they chose to put their faith in him, they found that what he was saying actually made a lot of sense. He was describing the world from a different perspective, one that was full of hope for the hopeless and love for the unwanted.

One time when he was talking to a large crowd of people, Jesus spoke about how to be truly happy. It wasn't what might have been expected, like money, having lots of things, doing what you want. It seemed to be a bit upside down. He said, "God makes people happy even when they are poor, sad, humble, meek, want to do right more than anything else, give mercy, are pure thinking, bring peace, are treated badly for doing good."

Jesus' ideas about what makes people really happy, deep inside. God's type of happiness is deep and it's bigger than the things we have or the things that happen to us.

**Turn that Thought Upside Down:** Jesus said, "People who are meek are happy". Most people today don't really understand what Jesus meant by "meek." A lot of people think meek means weak, being a push-over, but it doesn't at all! Turn that thought upside down! Someone who is meek is actually a very strong person. A meek person is gentle and humble, they don't think that they are better than others. They don't look down on other people but value them and see them as equal. Jesus is called 'meek' in the Bible and said of himself, "I am gentle and humble in spirit." He valued everyone he met. Many Christians believe that Jesus shows us good ways to act and good ways to behave towards other people.

**Game/Activity:** Ask for volunteer to help decide whether the people in the following situations are being weak or meek. You could have a piece of A4 card with the words on either side. Ask everyone to do thumbs up if they think 'meek' and thumbs down if they think 'weak'.

1. The class are playing football. Jill passes to Bob, but he misses and trips over and the other side get the ball. Jill shouts at Bob saying he's rubbish and useless. Sid helps Bill up and asks him if he's okay. *Jill is being \_W\_ Sid is being \_M\_.*



2. Jane and Josh's mum has made some cakes for a charity cake sale. Jane takes one as she says they smell nice, and no one will miss it. Josh doesn't touch them even though Jane teases him and calls him a 'goody-goody'. *Jane is being \_\_W\_\_, Josh is being \_\_M\_\_.*
3. Simeon is left out of the game in the playground. Sanjay says Simeon can't play with them because he's too slow. Zara says they are not being very nice, leaves the game and goes to play with Simeon. *Zara is being \_\_M\_\_, Sanjay is being \_\_W\_\_.*

**Main Content:** Being meek is treating people equally and valuing them, being meek is being strong. Jesus met someone who wasn't meek to begin with; instead, he was weak and looked down on other people. His name was Zacchaeus.

**Bible Story:** Jesus & Zacchaeus - Luke 19:1-6

Do you remember Zacchaeus, better known as Zac, from our first assembly? We left him up a tree, looking down on other people. Can you remember why he was there? He wanted to get a good view of Jesus, to see who he was as he'd heard a lot about him. But he was also hiding from the crowd because he was not popular, for good reason. Zac was the chief tax collector and tax collectors were not popular. Not just because they worked for the Romans who were in charge, collecting money (that's what taxes are) for them, but because he took more than he should have and kept that for himself. Zac was an example of someone being very weak: giving in to greed, lying, cheating and stealing. He didn't value other people but looked down on them and thought he was better than them.

Jesus knew this but he didn't ignore Zac or tell him off. Jesus wanted to help him change, from weak to meek. When Jesus came to where Zac was hiding, he looked up and saw him in the tree. Looking straight at Zac, Jesus spoke to him, not in an angry voice or a mocking voice, but in a friendly, pleased-to-see-him way. "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down!" Jesus called to him, "Today is my day to be a guest in your home."

Can you imagine how Zac felt about that? Jesus had seen him and now wanted to come to his house. A great honour! A chance to properly meet, talk and listen to this amazing man. Zac scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Things were looking up, even though all the people around him had seen this happen and began to complain, "Look at the kind of man Jesus stays with. Zacchaeus is a sinner! He takes from us and only thinks about himself."

But Jesus continued to look at Zac, smiling and waiting. And as Zac looked at Jesus, he realised what he had been doing and how terrible and weak it was. He wanted to change. He wanted to be different. He wanted to please Jesus and do what was right. He wanted to stop looking down on people. He wanted to treat people well and be meek.

We'll find out what he decided to do next time....



**NB: If you are doing this as a stand-alone assembly ...** *To finish the story*

Zac declared, "I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay that person back four times more!"

Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house today. This man truly belongs to the family of Abraham. The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them."

**Pupil Response:**      What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus?  
                                    How did he feel about that?  
                                    How did Zac change?

Jesus helped Zacchaeus to see that his behavior had been weak. Zacchaeus became meek and strong in himself, when he realized this. Zac turned his old life upside down and gained deep happiness.

**Reflection:**      I wonder, are you meek?  
                                    Do you value other people and treat them equally?  
                                    Would you like to be meek?  
                                    I wonder if you have been in a situation where you showed meekness?  
                                    What did you do?  
                                    I wonder if you show that you value others in what you do and say?

It's often not the easy option. It can be hard to do. Is there something that you do that you need to turn upside down to get real happiness?

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to be meek; to value others and treat them equally, and to have the strength and courage to always do the right thing and say the right thing, even when it is hard for us to do. Amen



### 3. Upside Down: Rich or Poor?

**Themes/Values/Keywords:** Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have nothing." Jesus knew that money was one of the things people can make a big mistake about. They can get things upside down in thinking that the more money they have, the happier they will be. In our final part of the Zaccheus story, Zac found something far more precious than gold or silver, he met Jesus and now wanted to be more like him. We also hear the song & story of Joe working in a button factory. He learnt to appreciate things in life which give lasting happiness - friends & family. This worship encourages children to turn their thinking upside down and become people who appreciate and share what we have with others. **Appreciation, sharing, happiness, Harvest.**

**Bible Reference:** Jesus & Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1-10 & The Parable of the Rich Farmer Luke 12:13-21

**Key Stage Relevance:** KS1 & KS2

**Resources:** Props for the story: Coloured buttons/card, a hi-vis tabard, money, TV box

**Introduction:** In our last assembly we thought about how Jesus taught people to live in a way that was different, to be meek, treating other people equally and valuing them. Remember Zac up the tree looking down on people by the end of our assembly last time he was standing on the ground looking everybody in the eye... or maybe not... he was still a very short man!

Does anybody remember what Zac did for a job? He was a tax collector. If there was one thing that Zac really really liked it was money! It might surprise you but one of the things that Jesus talked about a lot when he was on the earth was... money!

**Main Content:** Jesus knew that money was one of the things that people could make a big mistake about. They could get things upside down. They could think that the more money they had, the more stuff they had, the happier they would. That's definitely how Zac thought.

**Turn that Thought Upside Down:** Jesus liked to turn people's ideas upside down!

One day, Jesus wanted to help his friends to understand how easy it is to fall into the trap of money. He decided, as he often did, that the best way to help them understand was not to just tell them, but to tell them a story, a parable, (ask them about meaning) that would help them to see.

Jesus' parable was about a farmer. Lots of the people listening to Jesus would have been farmers, they would have known what it was like. Are any of you famers? No, you go to school, so we're going to have a go at retelling this story in a way that you can all understand. But first... we have to play a game... we're going to help you understand what it feels like to work in a button factory!

**Game/Activity:** We're going to learn a song, well it's more of a chant, each verse you're going to be given a new invisible button to push.



Invite a few volunteers up to demonstrate or if working with a smaller group size invite everybody to join in with the song/story of Joe who worked in a button factory. Each verse introduces a new button to press.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdaA1PFyuR8>

**Hi, my name's Joe and I work in a button factory.  
I've got a wife and three kids,  
And one day my boss said to me.  
He said Joe (I said Yo)  
Are you busy? (I said No)  
He said push that button with your right hand.  
... push that button with your left hand.  
... push that button with your right foot.  
... push that button with your left foot.  
... push that button with your head.**

**Hi, my name's Joe and I work in a button factory.  
I've got a wife and three kids,  
And one day my boss said to me.  
He said Joe (I said Yo)  
Are you busy? (I said YES!!!)**

Wow, you must all be exhausted! Sit down now while we listen to the story of Joe and his job.

**Bible Story:** Joe and the Button Factory (based on the Parable of the Rich Farmer Luke 12:13-21)

Once upon a time there was a man called Joe, he had a great life, he was happily married with three beautiful children. He had great friends who he loved to spend time with, and he loved his job.

Joe worked at a button factory, it was a factory that made buttons and Joe's job was to press a big red button every single hour. He didn't really know what the button did but it was so big and so red that he felt very important. At the end of the week, he collected his pay cheque and took the money home. It was just enough money to pay his bills and feed his family and sometimes to have a treat... like fish and chips for supper! At the end of every day Joe came home happy from work, he played with his children before bed and on the weekends, he loved to play football with his friends.

One day Joe's boss came to visit, she saw how well Joe was pushing the big red button.

"Hey Joe" she said, "how would you like some more responsibility, and some more money!"

Joe was interested, very interested.

"You only push this button once every hour, but there is another button on the other side of the factory, a big green button which needs to be pressed every half an hour. Could you take charge of pressing that button too?"

"I am sure I could do that." Joe said.



So, the next day Joe started his new role, he still pushed the big red button, but twice an hour he would walk across the factory floor and press the green button.

"This is easy!" Joe said.

At the end of the week when Joe got his pay cheque there was even more money in it, on the way home he bought his wife a bunch of flowers and some chocolate for his children.

The next week the boss visited again.

"Hey Joe" she said, "how would you like some more responsibility, and some more money!"

Joe was interested, very interested.

"You only push the red button once every hour, and the green button twice an hour but there is another button on the other side of the factory, a big blue button which needs to be pressed every ten minutes. Could you take charge of pressing that button too?"

"I am sure I could do that." Joe said.

So, the next day Joe started his new role, once an hour he pushed the red button, twice an hour he pressed the green button and six times an hour he pressed the blue button.

"This is easy!" Joe said.

At the end of the week when Joe got his pay cheque there was even more money in it, on the way home he bought a huge television set. When he got it home, he set it up ready to watch but then went to bed, he was just too tired.

The next week the boss visited again.

"Hey Joe" she said, "how would you like some more responsibility, and some more money!"

Joe was interested, very interested.

"We have a new button. It is bright yellow and it needs to be pushed every five minutes. Could you take charge of pressing that button too?"

"I am sure I could do that." Joe said.

So, the next day Joe started his new role, once an hour he pushed the red button, twice an hour he pressed the green button, six times an hour he pressed the blue button and twelve times an hour he pressed the yellow button.

"This is hard work!" Joe said, but he liked having the extra money in his pay packet, he was already thinking about buying a new car to drive himself to football with his mates.

That weekend Joe was so tired he overslept and missed football with his friends.

The next week the boss visited again.

"Hey Joe" she said, "how would you like some more responsibility, and some more money!"

Joe was interested, very interested, but he was also very tired.

"We have a new button. It is pink and it needs to be pushed every minute. Could you take charge of pressing that button too?"

"I am sure I could do that." Joe said with a yawn.

So, the next day Joe started his new role, once an hour he pushed the red button, twice an hour he pressed the green button, six times an hour he pressed the blue button, twelve times an hour he pressed the yellow button and sixty times an hour he pressed the pink button.

At the end of the week when Joe collected his pay cheque it was the biggest yet!



"Look at how much money I have made us" Joe told his wife when he got home.  
"The children want to play with you."  
"Sorry, I am too tired," Joe said.  
Just then the phone rang, "we haven't seen you for ages" Joe's friends said, "do you want to meet up with us?"  
"Sorry, I am too tired," Joe said.  
"I've cooked you a delicious meal" Joes' wife said.  
"zzzz" said Joe, he was already asleep!

The next week the boss visited again.  
"Hey Joe" she said, "Joe? JOE!!!"  
Joe was fast asleep!  
"Joe you're fired!" the boss said.  
Joe trudged sadly home. When he got there the house was empty.  
"We have gone to the seaside," a note on the table said, "Your friends invited us."  
Joe sat down alone in front of his huge TV, he thought about his friends having fun on the beach, his children and wife enjoying fish and chips without him.  
"At least I have my new TV" Joe thought to himself, but before he could reach for the remote control, he had fallen fast asleep!

**Pupil Response:** At the beginning of the story Joe was happy, he had a loving family and good friends, but as the story went on things changed. Joe was so focused on making more and more money that he didn't get to enjoy the things he already had, he missed out on time with his friends and family.

What do you think are the most important things for us to have in the world?  
Do you think that being rich will make you happy?  
What are some of the things that do make you happy?

**Reflection:** Jesus said "How silly it is for anyone to spend their whole life storing up riches for themselves. To God that person is really a poor person." Jesus knew that there are more important things in the world than money or possessions.

Do you remember Zac? When he met Jesus, he completely changed the way he lived his life. In the past he had taken extra money for himself. After he met Jesus he changed completely, in fact he promised to give half of his money to the poor and to pay back four times what he had taken from people!

Zac had discovered something far more precious than gold or silver. He had met Jesus and now he wanted to try and be more like him.

**Prayer:**

Dear God,  
Help us to appreciate the things we have in life, our friends, family and those around us. Help us to remember that having money and possessions will not give us lasting happiness. Help us to turn our thinking upside down and become people who share what we have with others. Amen.



#### 4. Upside Down: Happy or Sad?

**Themes/Values/Keywords:** Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn". What was he thinking?! Surely there can't be anything good about being sad or upset? But turn that thought upside down as Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn *because* they will be comforted." Through a fun game of things we find most comforting and the story of David mourning the loss of Saul and Jonathan children will be encouraged to know that even during sad times we are never alone. There are friends, family and teachers who can comfort us when we are sad, and Christians believe we can always talk to God. He wants to comfort us. **Comfort, Care, Sadness, Mourning, Loss, Grief, Bereavement, Love.**

**Bible reference:** David mourns Saul & Jonathan – 2 Samuel 1:23-27

**Key Stage Relevance:** KS1 & KS2

**Resources:** Scarves, hats, teddies, gloves, blankets for the game.

**Introduction:** Do you have any weird things that you like to eat – maybe you like to dip chips in strawberry milkshake, or combine marmite and banana in your sandwiches, have you ever had somebody look at what you are eating and say "what are you thinking?"

Jesus was pretty used to people saying that, the things he did and said seemed to be completely topsy turvy. Today we're going to think about something that Jesus said which is totally upside down and back to front! Jesus said... "Blessed are those who mourn!" What was he thinking?

**Main Content:** When was the last time that something made you feel sad or upset? Mourning is when we feel upset because something we really care about is gone and we can't get it back. In the last year some people have lost opportunities, trips they were really looking forward to were cancelled, they have missed out on time with friends and family, celebrating special events like birthdays or weddings. Some people have been sad because people they loved have died. Surely there can't be anything good about being sad or upset?

**Turn that Thought Upside Down:** Jesus didn't *just* say, blessed are those who mourn. He said, "Blessed are those who mourn because they will be comforted." Jesus wanted people to know that even when they went through their most difficult and saddest times, they would never be alone.

What are some of the things that you find most comforting, the things that give you a warm and cosy feeling? Maybe hugging a favourite teddy bear, sleeping with a soft blanket or drinking a nice hot chocolate.

Let's see how cosy we can get with our game.





**Pupil Response:** Who do you talk to when you feel sad or upset?  
What are the things that help you to feel better during sad or difficult times?  
What things bring you comfort?

**Reflection:** David once wrote a song to God that said this “Whenever I feel sad, I know you see, you keep a record of all the challenges I face, every tear that falls you catch it and store it in a special bottle.” (Psalm 56: 8-11). David knew that he was special and important to God, that God wanted the best for him and was always there for him to talk to. Christians believe that the same is true for us today, that we are never alone, we can always talk to God. Even when we face times of sadness and mourning, we can be encouraged that God wants to comfort us.

**Prayer:** Dear God,  
Thank you that you are always with us, not just during the good times but during the sad times too. Thank you for giving us friends, family and teachers who can comfort us when we are sad. Help us to be good friends to others too. Even during the hardest times help us to remember that we are never alone.  
Amen.



## 5. Upside Down: First or Last

**Themes/Values/Keywords:** Life is full of competition and trying to be the best, but Jesus said something quite upside down. He said, "Those who are last now will someday be first. And those who are first now will someday be last." As we explore this teaching, we encourage children to think of a time when they've put someone else first, or let them have something they wanted, or when they shared something. It can be a hard thing to do, and it might seem upside down, but it can make you feel really happy! **Humility, Sharing, Putting other's first, Cooperation, Care.**

**Bible reference:** Who is the greatest? Mark 9: 33-37

**Key Stage Relevance:** KS1 & 2

**Resources:** Items for an egg & spoon race, finishers medal, finishing line.

**Introduction:** This term we are looking at things that Jesus said and did that first seem upside down. Can you remember any of them?

**Game/Activity:** Choose three children to take part in a short race. It could be an egg and spoon race, a race to take off their shoes and put them back on again, or a race to draw a picture. When they have all finished, line them up in the order of finishing and then announce the winner as the person who came last "and the winner is ..." (give the person who came last a medal/sticker).

**Main Content:** Maybe that doesn't seem right to you. The person who finished last was the one I said was the winner. Remember those seemingly upside-down things Jesus said?

**Turn that Thought Upside Down:** One thing that Jesus said, several times was, "Those who are last now will someday be first. And those who are first now will someday be last." That definitely sounds upside down. He wasn't talking about people in a race or a competition; he was talking about our lives. He explained more to the disciples, his special friends.

**Bible Story:** Who is the Greatest? Mark 9: 33-37

Jesus and his friends were walking along the dusty road to Capernaum, next to Lake Galilee. Jesus had already taught them many things and they had seen him healing and teaching many people, performing miracles, forgiving and praying. But now they were hot and tired and dragging their feet. Jesus walked ahead as they dawdled behind him. They began to argue, getting hotter and more irritable by the minute.

When they arrived, they went inside the cool house, where Jesus was waiting for them. He looked at them with interest. "What were you so busy arguing about on the way?" he asked. There was silence. The disciples looked at their feet or the walls, avoiding each other's eyes, and especially not looking at Jesus. They were now feeling ashamed and didn't want to tell Jesus that each one had been trying to prove that he was the greatest and more important than the others.

Jesus knew exactly what had been going on. He sat down and called them over to him. "So," Jesus began, "which one of you would like to be leader – the greatest, the most important?"



Nobody answered but everyone was listening attentively to Jesus. "I'll tell you how to be the greatest, how to be first, in my kingdom. Whoever wants to be first must put himself last of all and be the servant of all. Someone who is always looking after others, never thinking about themselves or their own needs. For the one who is least among you all is the greatest."

**Pupil Response:** Well, that was something for Jesus' friends to think about, and something to challenge us too. In previous assemblies, we heard what Jesus said about ways to be happy or blessed. One was this: "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight." When the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest, they were competing with each other, wanting to be first. They were only thinking about themselves, and they may have hurt some of their friends' feelings. Jesus made them think about their behaviour. They realised that he wanted them to serve, to look after and help others, to put others first.

A few years ago, in 2017, a London Marathon runner, Matthew Rees, was 300m away from the finish line. His race was going well, and he was on track to achieve his personal best time. He saw another runner, a stranger, collapse on the ground. "I was just about to sprint to the finish when I saw David," he told people afterwards. "His legs were completely jelly-like, and he collapsed in front of me. So, I decided to forget my race. He had come so far and after 26 miles of running I wanted him to make the finish. I said, 'come on - we can do this - we'll do it together, we'll cross the line together', I picked him up and walked with him to the finish. Matthew decided it was more important to make sure he finished as well. So he didn't get the time he was looking for, but he got a memorable moment and that's more important. He just helped a guy out when he was in need. Matthew said, "I'm glad he got to the line, and I'm glad he is okay." The runner he helped, David, said: "For someone just to stop their own race to help you, that's such a decent thing that he did." Matthew put David's needs before his own. He dropped back several places in the race but showed he was 'first' in his attitude.

**Reflection:** Can you think of a time where you've put yourself last and someone else first? Maybe you let someone go in front of you, or you let them have something you wanted, or you shared something. It can be a hard thing to do. But we can try to think about other people's feelings and needs, before our own. It might be upside-down, but it could make you feel really happy.

**Prayer:** Dear God, help us to put others first, to think about their feelings and needs. Help us to not push in front of others, to not compete and fight but to cooperate, to care for and help others. Amen.



## 6. Upside Down: Near or Far?

**Themes/Values/Keywords:** Sometimes people and objects may seem far away and yet they may also feel near to us. How upside down is that?! Depending on our perspective, big things can look small and small things can seem big. Zoom and other apps have helped many friends and families stay in touch during lockdown even though they may be far away. This worship demonstrates the upside-down thought that we can be near to God, even though he may seem far away. Christians believe that all people are important to God. As we hear the bible story of when Jesus invited the little children to come to him, we will hear how Christians believe that all people are important to God. The Bible says as we draw near to Him, even though he may seem far away, He will draw near to us. **Love, Perspective, Prayer, Communication.**

**Bible reference:** The Little Children and Jesus – Matthew 19:13-15

**Key Stage Relevance:** KS1 & 2

**Resources:** Map of the world. Pictures of zoomed in objects.

**Introduction:** In our 'Upside Down' Worship this term we've been considering some of the things that Jesus taught people on how to live their lives from God's perspective, which may seem upside down to us until we understand the difference it can make. Today we are going to think a bit more about our perspective in relation to things that are near or far.

Who has family or friends who live the furthest away? Ask children to put up their hands and to put them down as you describe different places...

...further away than (local town)? ...further away than England? ... further away than (different countries)? (show on a map).

Ask some of the children who still have their hands up, where their friends/family live and how do they keep in contact? (zoom, letters, telephone, emails etc). All these methods of communication help us to feel close, even though we may be far away!

A friend of our Spinnaker team moved to Australia a few years ago (Steve Palmer), but we still keep in contact with him on Face Book and Zoom, so he doesn't feel too far away.

**Turn that Thought Upside Down:** Have you ever tried holding up two identical objects at different distances from your face? Even though they are exactly the same size, the object closest to you seems bigger, and the object further away can appear smaller. That's what we call perspective! How upside-down is that?!

**Game/Activity: What is it?**

Things can look quite different when we zoom in up close. How many of these everyday objects can you identify from the photos?

Show a selection of magnified items for the children to guess what is it?

How many did you get right?



**Main Content:** In our Bible story today, people brought their children to be near Jesus, but the disciples wanted to keep the children far away. The disciples thought children weren't as important as the grown-ups, and they didn't want them bothering Jesus – but Jesus turned that thought upside down! He wanted people to know that everyone is important to God, and God wants everyone to come close to him. This story is written three times in the New Testament by Matthew 19, Mark 10 & Luke 18, so it must be very important for us to hear!

### **Bible Story: The Little Children and Jesus – Matthew 19:13-15**

A big crowd had come to meet Jesus. They had heard that he was praying for people and making them better and so they came, people who couldn't walk, people who couldn't see, people who couldn't hear. They all came to meet Jesus.

The disciples, Jesus' friends were working hard to control the crowds. "Don't push", they said, "everyone will get to meet Jesus".

A mother with her child came to meet the disciples. "Did you say that everybody can meet Jesus?", she asked. "Can my little baby come and meet Jesus too?"

"Definitely not!", said the disciples "Jesus is very busy. Don't you see the crowds? All of these people need healing today, he doesn't have time to meet your little baby."

The mother was very sad. She was about to walk away. "we won't get to meet Jesus today", she told her child. But then, something happened. From inside the big, pushing, shoving crowd came a voice. It was Jesus. "STOP!", he shouted, and he turned to give his friends, the disciples a very grumpy look. "What are you doing? Don't you know that I love everybody, that I want to meet everybody. "Let the little children come and meet me." Suddenly, from in the crowd they came rushing ...toddlers, crawling forward, children rushing towards him, and they all clambered into Jesus' lap. One by one Jesus hugged the children. "Every one of these children is special and important to me." he told the crowd. "And I want you to be just like them, knowing me and my father, and how much we love you. Never stop the children from coming to meet me again". He told his friends.

**Pupil Response:** Why do you think Jesus told people the kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are like children?

- Is it because children have more fun? No!
- Is it because children are more sensible than adults? No!
- Is it because God loves children more than adults? No!

No! It's because God loves EVERYBODY!

God loves everybody and everyone is invited to draw close to him. He doesn't turn anyone away.

Jesus wanted ALL people to turn their lives upside down by coming to him. In Ephesians 5 v 1 it says, 'You are God's children who he loves.' We are all his children, even the grown ups!



**Reflection:** How close do you feel to God? (show the two same sized objects used earlier).

Sometimes we think about God being far away in heaven, but Christians believe that we can be close to God here on earth.

1 John 3 v 1 says, 'The Father has loved us so much we are called children of God.'

We are all invited to be children of God.

James 4:8 says, 'Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.'

How do we do that? ... We can do it now in prayer!

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you that we are ALL your children whatever our age. Thank you that everyone can draw near to you, and you are never far from us. Amen.



## 7. Upside Down: Christmas

**Themes/Values/Keywords:** God's plan for the birth of his son is not quite what you would expect for the King of Kings! His plan to most people would be considered completely upside down - Born in a stable rather than a palace or a hospital. To a young girl from an insignificant town. Unexpected visitors and very strange gifts! We might not always understand why things in life happen as they do, but Christians believe God's plan was perfect. God's **upside** love came **down** to earth for everyone and Jesus came to show us how we can turn our topsy turvy lives UPSIDE DOWN!

**Hope, Love, Gifts, Plans, Change, Trust, Faith.**

**Bible reference:** The Christmas Story – Matthew 1-2 & Luke 1-2

**Key Stage Relevance:** KS1 & 2

**Resources:** Pictures of some of the Christmas Traditions around the world. 2 x Angel costumes and a kitchen roll tube as a telescope.

**Introduction:** What's the most unusual Christmas you've ever had? Perhaps last year might not have been what you were expecting or planning? Maybe you had plans to see friends and family that were suddenly cancelled due to the Covid-19 Lockdown?

(Give a personal example). Last year, I planned to have a wonderful family Christmas Dinner with my children returning home from university and their grandparents joining us, as is always our tradition but unfortunately, I ended up cooking Christmas Dinner for my in-laws, and delivering it to their front door on a tray and we didn't get to see my daughter until Easter! But we had a great time then, meeting up and exchanging our Christmas presents! I might not have appreciated the sudden change of plans at the time, but in hindsight I can see that the plans were made to protect my family from the virus.

In our 'Upside Down' Worship this term we've been considering some of the things that Jesus taught people on how to live their lives from God's perspective, which may seem upside down to us until we understand the difference it can make.

**Game/Activity:** People around the world have different customs and traditions for celebrating Christmas – some of these traditions may seem unusual, funny or even upside down to how you and I might celebrate but they all sound amazing! Our game today is to match up each Christmas tradition with the country where that celebration/tradition takes place.

1. What country has an upside-down Christmas Tree that first became a tradition in the Middle Ages when Eastern European Christians would flip them to represent the Trinity and Christ being Crucified. People use fruit, nuts, sweets wrapped in shiny paper, ribbons and gold painted pinecones to decorate the tree hanging upside down from the centre of the room. Thumbs up for ...POLAND or HUNGARY? The answer is **POLAND!**
2. In what country do people skate to church on rollerblades in the week leading up to Christmas and attend a daily church service called Misa de Aguinaldo (Early morning mass)? ... SPAIN or VENEZUELA? The answer is **VENEZUELA!**



3. In which country do people hide their brooms before going to sleep on Christmas Eve so that no witches can steal them and go flying on them! ... GERMAY OR NORWAY? The answer is **NORWAY!**
4. In what country is the traditional Christmas dinner for many Kentucky Fried Chicken? JAPAN or AMERICA? The answer is **JAPAN!** It has become so popular families have to order the Xmas Family Bucket online and have it delivered.
5. On the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> December, children in this country leave a boot or shoe outside their bedroom door. In the morning if they've been good, they will wake to find the shoes filled with sweets. If they haven't, they will find only a branch. Obviously best to leave out your cleanest pair of shoes! Is it GERMANY or ITALY? ... The answer is **GERMANY!**

What fun! Some of those ideas seem completely upside down to what we do, don't they!?

**Main Content:** Today as we look at the Christmas Story, we will discover that although God's plan for the birth of his son Jesus may not have been what you might expect for the 'King of Kings', it was all part of God's perfect plan to show us how we can turn our lives upside down!

**Bible Story:** The Christmas Story (can be told as a story or acted out) – or use the YouTube Spinnaker video version.

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Narrator | I want you to imagine the scene...<br>We're in Heaven 2021 years ago, listening in on the Angel's conversation.   |
| Angel 1  | Shouldn't we be at choir practice?  |
| Angel 2  | Yeah, but don't get your halo in a twist – I've heard it's been cancelled because there are some angel delights happening down on Earth and can you believe it? Gabriel's got the job!  |
| Angel 1  | Really?! Gabe? Are you sure? You don't see him on Earth very often, I wonder what God's told him to do?   |
| Angel 2  | Well from what I can make out from my terrestrial telescope ( <i>look through a kitchen roll tube</i> ) He's at a young girl's house in Nazareth. Oh dear, I think he's really scared her! No, it's ok, he's just told her that she is blessed from head to toe, and the Lord is really pleased with her. Ah that's nice! That's just the sort of thing God would say. Oh no, what's that? He's just told her she is going to have a baby son, who she will call Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. |
| Angel 1  | What! Surely Gabe has gone to the wrong house – she's just a teenager called Mary, from a working-class family, she doesn't have a husband yet and she lives in smelly old Nazareth!! Nooo! This is all wrong. The world is turning upside down. She can't possibly be the one to be the mother to the Son of God.  |
| Angel 2  | Oh, hang on (look through telescope), I think Gabe's trying to sort things out now. Let's hope he can persuade Mary's boyfriend Joseph to stand by Mary and help her raise the baby together.   |
| Angel 1  | How's he going to do that? He's fast asleep.  |
| Angel 2  | Gabe's going to have to teleport himself into his dream!  |



|          |  |
|----------|--|
| Angel 1  | What's heaven coming to? An Angel talking in a dream to a carpenter! A workman!!   |
| Angel 2  | Heaven's coming down to earth, by the look of it. Standards are slipping! I'm going to have to have a word with God about all this.  |
| Narrator | A few months later ...   |
| Angel 1  | Do you remember that job Gabriel had a few months ago, well he really must have messed things up! That young girl Mary is now heavily pregnant with the Son of God, and the poor lass has got to travel all the way to Bethlehem with Joseph to be counted in the Roman Census. Surely God could've timed it better for them?  |
| Angel 2  | Yeah, not only that it's such a long way to travel those Romans have been turning everyone's lives upside down! All for their silly census. It's senseless!  |
| Angel 1  | Well at least God will have reserved them a luxury suite at Herod's palace, or possibly even a private room at the Bethlehem Hospital for when the time comes for the baby. Let's take a look and see where they're heading for the birth. (Look through telescope).   |
| Angel 2  | This is not good! All the inns are full, the town is packed with travellers – there's nowhere for them to stay. I can see they are getting desperate now – Joseph is making arrangements with an innkeeper to stay in a stable. Urgh! That's disgusting – I wouldn't let my fluffy white rabbit stay there, let alone allow for God's son to be born among all those smelly farm animals. Poor Mary, I think it's nearly time for her new arrival. |
| Angel 1  | Erm, you know we've missed choir practice again tonight? I have a feeling we should be there. I can hear the trumpets warming up. Ah look, there's the angel's band above that field of Shepherds.   |
| Angel 2  | I don't think we're missing anything special. I heard they were only going to sing to a bunch of scruffy shepherds. Angels belong in Heaven, not on earth. Everything is getting all mixed up, and upside down.  |
| Angel 1  | Well, I don't want miss out – I think this is an amazing occasion and I want to be part of telling everyone on earth the Good News – that Jesus is born! He is the Saviour of the world and will bring peace and goodwill to all men on earth.   |
| Angel 2  | Let's just hope after all these smelly shepherds have all been to see the baby Mary and Joseph might get some more dignified visitors.   |
| Angel 1  | That's more like it. Things are looking up. I can see some Wise Men from the East following the star God put over the place where Jesus was born. Now, these look like my sort of people. Nicely dressed, intelligent, educated, rich. There not the sort to let their lives be turned upside down by a baby in an animal's feeding trough!  |
| Angel 2  | Well, they may be intelligent and wise, but they've headed straight for Herod's palace. They are clearly looking for the New King, but they won't find Jesus there, and from what I know of jealous King Herod, he won't be happy to hear that they want to worship the new king.  |
| Angel 1  | Just what I thought. The wise men knew it would be worth giving up all their luxury to follow the star all the way to the cow-shed in Bethlehem. They are determined to worship Jesus wherever he is. (Shout) Keep going Wise Men – follow that star!  |



|         |   |
|---------|---|
| Angel 2 | Mary's heart was filled with joy you know when the Shepherds saw Jesus. I can't wait to see her face when she sees the presents the wise men have wrapped up!   |
| Angel 1 | Surely being so wise they will have brought blankets and nappies and milk and toys. Oh gosh! Well I never...what's that I see...  |
| Angel 2 | Gold, Frankincense & Myrrh – Not quite what you might expect for a new born baby, but perfect Gifts for the King of Kings.  |
| Angel 1 | Actually – God's plan was perfect. He had it planned from the very beginning of time, it was foretold 600 years before by prophets in the Old Testament. God himself chose to be born in a stable as a man. God himself, come down to live on earth and show his love for all people and how to live life from his perspective. |
| Angel 2 | That's so upside down, it's the right way up!   |

**Pupil Response:** What things happened in the story that seem upside down to how you might have planned it?

Why do you think God chose for Jesus to come to earth in this way?

What difference can the birth of Jesus make to those who put their faith in him? (refer to other Worships in this series – shows us a different perspective for living).

**Reflection:** Sometimes our own plans are a bit upside down. We might not always understand why things happen to us in life. Sometimes it not until we look back at a situation that we can see some of the positive things that can come from it or that we can learn. In my case last Christmas, I can now see how the sudden change of plans helped to keep me safe and well from Covid.

We often need to put our trust in plans that we didn't make – even if we don't fully understand them. This can be quite unsettling, and scary but as long as the plans have been made by adults who love and care for us we can trust they are in our best interests.

Christians believe that God has a perfect plan for each one of us. His plan was and is to give each one of us the gift of His love through the birth of his Son Jesus. Jesus, through his life, teaching, death and resurrection came to show us how we can turn our topsy turvy lives upside down – by living our lives from God's perspective.

Let's spend a moment now thinking about the plans we have for Christmas and how we can share this message of upside love come down to earth for everyone.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for Christmas and for your perfect plan of sending Jesus into the world to be our Saviour. Please help us to understand the plans you have for each one of us as we learn to put our trust in you and those around us who love and care for us. Help us to share your love with others as we celebrate this Christmas. Amen.