



Collective Worship Pack

Summer Term 2022



ABOVE & BEYOND

Collective Worship for the Summer Term

Above and Beyond Collective Worship Pack follows on from the previous packs of *Upside Down* and *Inside Out*. Each worship session can be used as a stand alone assembly, however this third and final pack in the series combines thoughts on living life from God's Perspective in *Upside Down*, together with the feelings, emotions and faith explored in *Inside Out*, to discover how we can be inspired to go Above and Beyond to become our best self!

As we investigate what it means to go 'above and beyond' we will look at some 'heavenly' values such as **generosity, compassion, reconciliation, inclusion, and courage**. The Bible stories chosen to reflect these values are taken from the Early Church in Acts where the new Christians were seeking to go 'Above and Beyond' in continuing the work Jesus had been doing on earth. Would they ever be able to achieve his challenge? Would they be able to go above and beyond?

Going above and beyond is not about being the best at something but it's about being your best self!

As the verse in the theme song asks...what would life be like if we seek for something more? If we do the best we can, and forgive when we are wronged, when we put the needs of others first, we go above and beyond.

If we live our life above and beyond then we can change the world!

During this worship series we will encourage children to share with others because a generous person is a happy person.

Children will have an opportunity to consider what they feel compassion for and what makes them want to take positive action. Even though they might feel overwhelmed by the problems in our world and wonder if it's worth it – they will be assured that every little action does make a difference for the better.

We will examine how we can respond when people treat us unfairly or are unkind to us. How can we put a broken relationship back together again and go above and beyond to rebuild and reconcile with someone?

In our worship on inclusion, can we go above and beyond to welcome someone into the groups we belong to with happiness and enthusiasm?

And finally we encourage children to have courage as they face the future. To go above and beyond, soaring like eagles, knowing who they can rely on to help keep them going with hope and strength wherever they go.

We hope and pray that as children take part in this fun, interactive worship series that they will experience a sense of strength, faith, love, joy and hope in their lives by engaging with the Christian faith and its values.



ABOVE & BEYOND worship this term will encourage children to ...

DISCOVER: what it means to go above and beyond to become your best self!

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

EXPLORE: different thoughts and emotions and be given time to reflect on these.

BE INSPIRED: to have hope and courage in facing the future. Becoming the person they were created to be, achieving their full potential and moving on confidently in being their best self,

ABOVE & BEYOND Collective Worship Pack is the third and final part of the series for 2021-2022. The first and second part of the series can be downloaded [here](#).

[UPSIDE DOWN](#)
[INSIDE OUT](#)

Multi-Media Worship Pack Resources

Each worship session in this pack is accompanied with a Power Point Presentation and a 'Thoughts on ...' PDF Resource sheet available on the resources section of our website: <https://www.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 for a link to the song.](#)

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 wronged.
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 | Above & Beyond Introduction | The Great Commission Matthew 28: 16-20 | In the first worship of the Above & Beyond series we explore what it means to go 'above and beyond'. We look at some 'heavenly' values such as generosity, compassion, forgiveness & reconciliation, inclusion, and courage. This introduction focuses on when Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world and continue the work that he had been doing on earth...would they ever be able to achieve his challenge? Would they be able to go above and beyond? Going above and beyond is not about being the best at something but being your best self! Your mission should you choose to accept it, is to always go above and beyond to become your best self! |
| 2 | Above & Beyond Generosity | The Early Church Acts 2:42-47 The Widows Mite Mark 12:41-44 | Being generous is to go above and beyond in sharing what we have with others. In this worship we tell the story of how Christians in the Early Church shared what they had with one another and helped people in need. As we refer to the story of the Widow's Mite, we learn that generosity isn't about how much you bring, but it's all about our attitude to sharing. Can you be a generous sharer; giving more than is expected, or when it's not expected? Christians believe that God gives us so much in our lives, although it might not be things, but time, talents, abilities, qualities, love, and that he wants us to happily share, what we have with others. A generous person is a happy person! |
| 3 | Above & Beyond Compassion | Widows Fed Acts 6:1-7 Feeding of the 5000 Matthew 14:13-21 | Compassion is going above and beyond feeling sorry for someone or showing sympathy. Compassion is taking positive action that will help others. We all have compassion for different things, depending on our experiences, our passions & interests. This worship encourages children to think about what they feel compassion for and what makes them want to take action. Jesus had compassion for all those he met, and He taught his disciples to have compassion too. Sometimes, we might feel overwhelmed by the problems in our world and wonder if it's worth us doing the little bit we can, BUT... every action will make a difference and help make change for the better. |



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|---|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 4 | Above & Beyond Reconciliation | Paul & Silas in Prison Acts 16 | How do we manage when people treat us unfairly or when others are unkind to us, or when we face challenging situations? Often when somebody has hurt our feelings or made a mistake, we might choose to forgive them, but what does it look like to go above and beyond in forgiving? How can we put a broken relationship back together again? As we look at the story of how Paul & Silas coped with unfairly being in prison this worship will help us to think about reconciliation. How could you go above and beyond to rebuild a broken relationship and reconcile with somebody? |
| 5 | Above & Beyond Inclusion | Peter's Dream – Jesus came for Everyone Acts 10: 9-16 | How does it feel to be left out of something? It's not a nice feeling. How can we go above and beyond to make sure everyone feels included, and be an equal part of a group? Christians believe Jesus came into the world for everyone! Can we follow his example of inclusion? To actually welcome someone into a group, with happiness and enthusiasm is going above and beyond! |
| 6 | Above & Beyond Courage | Timothy – Those who help us soar 2 Timothy 1 - 4 Isaiah 40 v 31 | We need to have courage to face our fears and step into the future. To go above and beyond is not to tiptoe into the unknown but to take flight, to soar like eagles. This worship encourages children to think about their hopes and dreams for the future and to have the courage to go above and beyond to become their best selves in all they do and to consider who can help them soar. May we soar like eagles and keep going as we face the future with courage. |



1. Above & Beyond: Introduction

Theme: In the first assembly of the Above & Beyond series we explore what it means to go 'above and beyond'. We look at some 'heavenly' values such as generosity, compassion, forgiveness & reconciliation, inclusion, and courage. This introduction focuses on when Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world and continue the work that he had been doing on earth...would they ever be able to achieve his challenge? Would they be able to go above and beyond? Going above and beyond is not about being the best at something but being your best self! Your mission should you choose to accept it, is to always go above and beyond to become your best self!

Bible Reference: The Great Commission – Matthew 28 v 16-20

Resources: Game Mission Possible Challenge Cards and equipment (beads or Lego bricks, paper and pen).

Introduction: Our theme for this term is 'Above and Beyond'. I wonder what that expression means to you? What do you think it means to go 'above and beyond'?

People might use it to say how someone has exceeded their expectations, perhaps a person has gone beyond the call of duty in performing their job or maybe someone has pushed themselves to do or achieve something better than they could have hoped for. Or you might think it refers to a location or a place... Above (point upwards!) and Beyond (look outwards) to somewhere in the distance/future.

Over the next few weeks, we will be combining all these ideas together with thoughts from our Upside Down and Inside Out assemblies.

Do you remember, Upside Down focused on living life from God's Perspective – so we'll be looking 'above' to explore some of God's heavenly values, such as generosity, compassion, forgiveness, courage and Inside Out helped us to understand and let out some of the feelings, emotions and faith that can inspire us to go 'beyond' our wildest dreams!

I believe that going above and beyond is not about being the best at something, or even comparing yourself to others, but it's being your best self in everything you do!

Your mission this term, should you choose to accept it, is to always go above and beyond to become your best self!

Game/Activity: Mission Possible!

(You may want to put on some cool sunglasses as you hand out/read out the mission possible cards).

Ask for 4 or 5 volunteers to take part in the 'Mission Possible' Challenge.

Each child takes a mystery envelope from you containing a 'mini mission' to complete. Their challenge is to go 'above and beyond' in some way. For example, if the challenge is to do 20 star jumps, can they do 21? Or stand for longer, sort more beads, thank more teachers etc.



Ideas for challenges ... The children could all do their challenges at the same time and see how they all get on when finished.

- 20 Star Jumps
- Stand on one leg for 10 seconds
- Sort out 10 red beads from a box of coloured beads and put them in a cup.
- Stack together 10 Lego bricks
- Write on a piece of paper the names of 3 teachers you would like to thank.

At the end of the challenge thank everyone for taking part. See how well they did. How did it make them feel to go above and beyond what was asked of them?

Main Content: It usually makes us feel good and satisfied when we can go above and beyond what we have been asked to do, and when we do things that make a difference it can also make other people happy too even though it may be quite challenging. In our bible story today, Jesus set the disciples a great commission. Let's find out more...

Bible Story: The Great Commission – Matthew 28 v 16-20

Jesus' friends, the disciples, had gathered on a mountain just outside Galilee. They had followed Jesus for three years, seen amazing miracles and heard wonderful teaching, but this was different. The Jesus who stood before them now had been killed on a cross, buried in a tomb and had come back to life!

"You have followed me for many years," Jesus said to his disciples. "You know how I have helped the sick and those in need, fed the hungry and cared for the poor. You know that I have served and loved everybody who I met."

The disciples nodded, each one of them remembering in their hearts one of their amazing memories of their time with Jesus.

"Now I am going away," Jesus told them, "To be in heaven with Father God. But my work on the earth is not done; there are still people who are sick and hungry and poor, who need to be loved and cared for, who need to hear the Good News about my love for them. So now I want you to go."

"Go where?" Peter asked.

"Go into all the world," Jesus explained. "Teach everybody you meet about me, love them, and serve them. All the amazing things I did on the earth you can go and do with the help of Holy Spirit. Baptise people and teach them to love and follow me too. Wherever you go, you can know that you are never alone, you will be able to speak to me in your hearts. I will always be with you."

The disciples were amazed and a little bit scared, but they knew that this was an important mission, the most important task they could be given. So, they went and told everybody they met about Jesus, and those people went and told other people, and those people told other people, all over the world. From generation to generation, God's amazing message of love was passed on, and it is still being passed on today!



Pupil Response: What was the commission Jesus told the disciples to do? To go into all the world, preaching the good news, teaching, baptising people...and to continue the work Jesus had been doing on earth.

That's quite an overwhelming task, isn't it? To go into all the world continuing Jesus' work! I wonder how the disciples felt when given that challenge?

They might have thought, 'Oh no! We can't do that without Jesus', or they may have been excited to get going in spreading the good news.

How would we respond to the challenge?

Reflection: Jesus reassured the disciples that he would help them right to the end of the challenge, and he also said that people would know they are his disciples if they love one another.

Christians believe that God created each one of us and He knows everything about us. He knows what we are capable of, and what inspires us to do things. It's not necessarily what we do that's important but the attitude with which we do things.

Are we able to go above and beyond by showing love to one another in all that we do?

Are we prepared to accept the challenge, like the disciples did in going 'Above and Beyond' by being our best self in everything we do, so that we can help to change the world for the better?!

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for all the different skills, talents and abilities you have given each one of us. In all we do, please help us to show your love to others so that we can be a change for good in the world. Help us look 'above' to you for our help as we are inspired by you to go 'beyond' our dreams. Amen.



2. Above & Beyond: Generosity

Theme: Being generous is to go above and beyond in sharing what we have with others. In this worship we tell the story of how Christians in the Early Church shared what they had with one another and helped people in need. We also refer to the story of the Widow's Mite because generosity isn't about how much you bring, but it's all about our attitude to sharing. Can you be a generous sharer; giving more than is expected, or when it's not expected? Christians believe that God gives us so much in our lives, although it might not be things, but time, talents, abilities, qualities, love, and that he wants us to happily share, what we have with others. A generous person is a happy person!

Bible Reference: The Early Church (Acts 2:42-47) and The Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41-44)

Resources: Items or pictures for the game: colouring pens, packet of crisps, an apple, trainers, packet of sweets, a toothbrush, a bicycle, your favourite toy!

Introduction: Do you think of yourself as a generous person? What does it mean to be generous? Are you generous with everything?

In the dictionary, it says the meaning of 'share' is if you share something that you have with someone, you give some of it to them or let them use it, and the meaning of 'generous' is a generous person gives more of something than is usual or expected.

So, there is a difference between sharing and being generous. Maybe you've shared something with someone but didn't really want to. Maybe you've given someone something you didn't really want or value, that wasn't really worth much. You shared, but were you generous? I wonder what your sharing attitude is?

Give two scenarios: Someone in your class has asked to borrow your brand-new pens. How do you respond?

- 1) "They're my brand-new pens. I haven't used them yet. Haven't you got any of your own? Why can't you use someone else's? Oh, they don't have any. Oh alright, I suppose you can. Just be really careful with them, okay? And just take one at a time. And give it back straight away."

OR

- 2) "Yes, course you can. They're brand new, they look really good. I haven't used them yet. You'll have to tell me what you think. Here's the packet. You just want one? Well, take them all anyway and then you won't have to keep coming and going."

What's the difference? (*Attitude, willingness to share, giving more than expected*)
Which do you think you're more like?

Game/Activity: What would you share?

Show pictures or have the items: colouring pens, packet of crisps, an apple, trainers, packet of sweets, a toothbrush, a bicycle, your favourite toy!



Show yes/no with thumbs up/down. Some things we share easily, some things are harder to share. Sometimes it might be better not to share. It might depend on how much we have. It might depend on what it means to us. It might depend on who is asking to share as well.

Main Content: As we found out last time, Jesus' friends had decided to tell as many people as they could about Jesus and what he did for everyone. This was the most important thing in their lives, and they had given up everything else to be able to do so.

Bible Story: The Early Church and The Widow's Mite

Peter and the other disciples had been telling everybody about Jesus; about how he loved and served others. When the crowds heard what they said and saw the miracles they performed, they were amazed!

"We want to be part of this too," people said. "How can we be followers of Jesus? Teach us more, show us what to do."

The new followers gathered to talk at the temple; they met in their homes, sharing food and serving one another; they sold their land and things they owned and brought the money to the disciples. "Use this to help people in need," they said.

"This is incredible," James, one of the disciples, said. "People are being so generous. Think what a difference this money can make."

Andrew, his brother, was watching as well. "I remember a lesson that Jesus taught us about generosity," he said. "We were standing in the temple as people were bringing money to give as an offering. There were many rich people bringing large amounts of money, but Jesus showed us a poor widow. The widow brought a mite, the smallest coin, and gave it as her offering."

"I remember that," James said. "Jesus said that her gift was worth even more because it cost more for her to give it. She didn't have much, but she gave what she had."

Just then a young boy came up to the disciples. He held up a coat. "This is my coat," the boy said. "But I am too big for it now, I want to share it."

"What an amazingly generous gift," Andrew said, smiling at the boy.

"It is just a coat," the boy explained. "But it is all I have to bring."

"Being generous isn't about how much you bring," James told the boy. "It is the attitude with which you bring your gift. Somebody will be very grateful to receive your coat. Thank you for sharing it."

Pupil response: What was the difference between the rich men's donations and the poor widow's? Why did Jesus point out the widow to his disciples? What did he want them to learn? Do you think they followed his teaching later on? How?



Reflection: We can all share something with others and we all do. But maybe it's easier, and we are more willing, to share some things than others. Maybe there are times when it's not good to share, especially if it upsets us.

Being generous is about our attitude to sharing, how we feel. Paul says in a letter to the Corinthians, (2 Corinthians 9:7) 'Each one should give, then, what he has decided in his heart to give. He should not give if it makes him sad. And he should not give if he thinks he is forced to give. God loves the person who gives happily.' It's not so much about the giving as the attitude of your heart. A generous person is a happy person!

It's not always things that we have to share. We also have time, energy, happiness (if you smile at someone, you're passing on your happiness), words, actions.

What can you think of that you can share? How can you share it?
What is your attitude to sharing? Can you be a generous sharer; giving more than is expected, or when it's not expected?

Christians believe that God gives us so much in our lives, although it might not be things, but time, talents, abilities, qualities, love, and that he wants us to happily share, what we have with others.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for all you have given us and share with us. Show us what we can share with others and how we can share it. Help us to be generous and share happily. Amen



3. Above & Beyond: Compassion

Theme: Compassion is going above and beyond feeling sorry for someone or showing sympathy. Compassion is taking positive action that will help others. We all have compassion for different things, depending on our experiences, our passions and interests. This worship encourages children to think about what they feel compassion for and what makes them want to take action. Jesus had compassion for all those he met. He taught his disciples to have compassion and they tried to live by his example. Sometimes we might feel overwhelmed by the problems in our world and wonder if it's worth us doing the little bit we can, when the problem is so big. BUT... every action will make a difference. If we each do something, all those actions added together can make a huge change for the better.

Bible Reference: Widows Fed – Acts 6:1-7 & Feeding of the 5000 - Matthew 14:13-21

Resources: Props for the introduction – chair, cushion, water, mug of tea. Power Point of charity logos for the game/activity.

Introduction: *Ask a teacher or pupil prior to the assembly to help act out tripping over as he/she comes into the hall and gets hurt in some way. Ask if they are okay, make a fuss of them and then help them onto a chair, give them a cushion, plaster/icepack, get a cup of tea/water, etc. Help them to feel comfortable and then say ...*

I'm glad you are ok now, I felt so sorry for you when you fell over, I felt moved to do something to help you...actually, that's what our Above and Beyond worship is about today...Compassion!

What does compassion mean? You have compassion if you see someone having a hard time and you do something to help, to make it better. Compassion is doing, taking action, being involved. 'Compassion' is going above and beyond feeling sorry for someone, showing sympathy, because to show compassion is to take positive action that will help others.

Maybe you've seen someone trip over in the playground and you've gone over to help them up, ask if they're alright and maybe taken them to an adult who can give them first aid. Maybe you've seen someone struggling with something and gone to offer and then give help. Maybe you've seen something on television about children who are hungry, or homeless, in need in some way, and wanted to help them, to donate money or useful things, or organise a way of raising money for them. You felt sorry for someone or something and then you took action to help - you were showing compassion.

We have compassion for different things. We have different interests, passions and experiences so will want to act about different things. What do you feel compassion for? What makes you want to take action?



Game/Activity: A charity is an organisation set up to provide help and raise money for those in need. There are lots of charities working for different issues. People usually choose which charities to support depending on what they feel compassion for. Which charity would you support?

Show some charity logos, explain what they support OR issues e.g hunger, homeless, animals, environment, disease. Thumbs up/down/sideways to show whether you feel compassion for each charity. Remember, it's how you feel, and we are all different, with different concerns and experiences. Possible charities – (chosen because of their recognisable logos!)

- Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children
- RSPB
- Help for Heroes
- Mind
- RNLI Lifeboats
- Oxfam
- RSPCA
- Foodbank
- The Trussell Trust
- British Heart Foundation
- WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature)

Maybe you could think about how you'd like to support the charity you chose.

Main Content: Jesus had compassion for all those he met and there are many stories showing this. He taught his disciples to have compassion and they tried to live by his example.

Bible Story: Widows Fed and Feeding of the 5000

One day the disciples, Jesus' followers, were gathered together, when a group of Greek-speaking widows came to speak with them.

"It's not fair," the women said. "When the food is being shared out, we do not get as much as the other women. What are you going to do about it?"

"Us?" James asked. "We're very busy teaching people and completing the mission that Jesus gave us. We don't really have time to deal with arguments like this."

"Wait," Peter said standing up. "Jesus would have wanted things to be fair; we know that he cared about feeding those who were hungry. Don't you remember that time he was teaching a big crowd and their stomachs began to rumble?"

"Of course," James said. "There was a little boy with five loaves of bread and two small fish. Jesus used that small amount to feed everybody who was there, five thousand men, plus women and children."

"And there was food left over," John reminded them. "Baskets and baskets full. Nobody went hungry when Jesus was around."



"Who was in charge of sharing the food with others?" Peter asked them. "Did Jesus do all of that?"

"Of course not," James said. "We did that bit."

"Well then, let's choose some people to put in charge of the food," Peter suggested. "People who are wise and full of compassion, who care for the needs of others and want things to be fair. They can take charge and make sure that everybody gets fed the right amount, that nobody goes hungry. Does that sound like a good solution?"

The disciples and the widows all agreed, so seven people were chosen and put in charge of food and nobody ever complained about being hungry again.

Pupil response: Why do you think Jesus performed this miracle of feeding the 5000 people? *Because he could see they were hungry, and he had compassion for them.*

Why was it important that the disciples made sure that the poor had food to eat? *Jesus asked them to continue showing love, care and compassion for those in need.*

How did they show it was important? *They took action/showed compassion and helped the widows.*

Reflection: You can feel sorry for someone or a situation – you show sympathy, but you show compassion when you **do** something to try to change it, when you go above and beyond. Compassion is action, and every action counts, however big or small. Sometimes we might feel overwhelmed by the problem (or problems) in our world, and we might wonder if it's worth us doing the little bit we can, when the problem is so big. BUT... every action will make a difference. Because if we each do something, all those actions added together can make a huge change for the better.

What do you have compassion for? What will move you to action? What can you do?

Christians believe that they should try to do what Jesus told them to - "Love your neighbour as you love yourself." He didn't mean just those people that we are close to or know, but to everyone around us. John, one of Jesus' disciples, wrote this in a letter, sharing what he learnt from Jesus: 'My children, our love should not be only words and talk. Our love must be true love. And we should show that love by what we do.' (1 John 3:18)

Christians believe that God wants us to have what we need and that we should help people who are hungry, thirsty, in need of clothing, lonely, homeless because Jesus said, "Anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me."

Can you go above and beyond and show compassion for others?

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you that you care deeply for every one of us. Help us to be aware of those around us who don't have everything they need, or who need help in some way. Show us how we can show compassion and what we can do to help. Amen.



4. Above & Beyond: Reconciliation

Theme: How do we manage when people treat us unfairly or when others are unkind to us, or when we face challenging situations? Often when somebody has hurt our feelings or made a mistake, we might choose to forgive them, but what does it look like to go above and beyond in forgiving? How can we put a broken relationship back together again? As we look at the story of how Paul & Silas coped with unfairly being in prison this worship will help us to think about reconciliation. How could you go above and beyond to rebuild a broken relationship and reconcile with somebody?

Bible Reference: Acts 16 - Paul & Silas in Prison

Resources: Duplo/Lego/Jenga bricks for the Game

Introduction:

In our 'Above and Beyond' assembly series we've been thinking about some of the stories from the early church and how the first Christians went above and beyond to follow the example set by Jesus. Things weren't always easy for Jesus' followers the disciples as we'll find out in today's story.

How do we manage when people treat us unfairly or when others are unkind to us, or when we face challenging situations? Often when somebody has hurt our feelings or made a mistake, we have to choose to forgive them, but what does it look like to go above and beyond in forgiving? How can we put a broken relationship back together again? Today we're going to think about reconciliation.

Game/Activity:

The Tower Challenge

Show the children a tower you have made from bricks prior to the assembly.

Ask for a couple of volunteers to build a tower the same as your tower, with the same materials but deconstructed. How quickly and accurately can they put it together to make the same tower?

Or, build a tower while the children watch you, destroy it/mess it up, and then ask for some volunteers to see if it can be put back as it was before (or even better!?).

Thank the children for taking part and comment on how well they've rebuilt the tower. It can be quite a challenge rebuilding what's been broken, damaged or hurt!

Main Content: Life for the early church wasn't easy. Even though they were being generous and compassionate to others, some people still didn't like what the disciples were saying. Many people were trying to stop the first Christians from telling others about Jesus. They even had them arrested and thrown in prison!

Bible Story: Acts 16 – Paul and Silas in prison/Pray for those who persecute you

Being a follower of Jesus was not easy, something Paul and Silas knew all too well. The Romans did not like what they were sharing about God's love. They did not like that people were listening to them and following them, so they arrested them and threw them in prison without a trial!



"This isn't fair!" Silas complained, tugging at the chains around his ankles. "We've done nothing wrong and yet we're stuck here! What are we going to do?"

Paul sat for a moment thinking, then he remembered something Jesus had once said. "I've heard about a great speech that Jesus once made," Paul explained. "He was on a hillside near the sea of Galilee, teaching people how God wanted them to live. In that speech Jesus said that we should pray for our enemies, for those who hurt us."

Silas was shocked, "Pray for them? Are you sure you're remembering that right?"

Paul nodded, "It seems strange and a bit upside down, but a lot of what Jesus said seemed that way to people, didn't it? Let's give it a go."

Paul and Silas began to pray. They prayed for the soldiers who had arrested them and for the Roman leaders who were hurting the followers of Jesus. "Would you help us to forgive them?" Paul and Silas prayed. "Would you help them come to know you?"

Suddenly the ground began to wobble, then shake, then roll like waves. "It's an earthquake!" Silas shouted. As quickly as it had begun the earthquake stopped. "Look!" Paul cried. The chains that had held them had fallen apart.

"Quick, let's run," Silas suggested.

"What about the jailer?" Paul stopped at the door. "If we leave, he might get into trouble. What we really want is to be treated fairly. I think we should wait and ask for a proper trial. Then we get a chance to tell even more people about Jesus."

That moment the jailer rushed in. He was terrified.

"You're still here!" the jailer breathed a sigh of relief. "I thought you would have run away. I was worried that I would be thrown in prison myself and then what would happen to my family? Why did you stay?"

Paul and Silas sat down with the jailer. They explained about Jesus, about his love for everybody he met, about the upside-down way he invited them to live their lives.

"Could I become a follower of Jesus too?" the jailer asked.

"Of course," Paul replied with a smile.

Pupil response:

How do you think Paul and Silas felt when they were thrown in prison?

How easy do you think it would have been to not only forgive their jailer but to share God's love with him too! What are the things that help you to forgive others? What things make it difficult?

Reflection:

When the prison doors flew open Paul and Silas could have just run away, but what would have happened then? The jailer would have ended up in a lot of trouble! But Paul and Silas didn't blame the jailer for keeping them locked up, instead they shared God's love with him. By the end of the story the magistrates were asking Paul and Silas to forgive them for the way they had been treated!



Paul and Silas knew that the way they had been treated was wrong and unfair, but they didn't shout and scream, instead they showed forgiveness and love even while they were being treated badly. They saw their difficult situation as an opportunity to tell even more people about God's love.

Do you like skateboarding? Where somebody else might see an obstacle or a wall a skateboarder sees an opportunity to go higher. Sometimes a difficult circumstance can actually become an opportunity for us to go above and beyond! Holding on to unforgiveness can actually hurt us more than help us. A Christian writer called Lewis Smedes says, "To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you."

- Is there anybody you need to forgive today?
- How we could we go above and beyond to rebuild a broken relationship and reconcile with somebody? What can we do?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you that you love each one of us and forgive us when we make mistakes. Help us to forgive others and not hold on to hurt feelings. Help us to seek reconciliation and to go above and beyond in sharing your love with those around us. Amen.



5. Above & Beyond: Inclusion

Theme: How does it feel to be left out of something? It's not a nice feeling. How can we go above and beyond to make sure everyone feels included, and be an equal part of a group? Christians believe Jesus came into the world for everyone! Can we follow his example of inclusion? To actually welcome someone into a group, with happiness and enthusiasm is going above and beyond!

Bible Reference: Acts 10:9-16 – Peter's Dream – Jesus came for Everyone

Resources: Items or pictures for 'The Odd One Out game' – Four different types of hats, four different types of fruit, four different types of mammals, four different types of vegetables.

Introduction: Have you been left out of something? This is being excluded. How does it feel? When you are included; you've been invited to join in a game, invited to do something together, go somewhere, and been made to feel welcome and important in the group – how does that feel? Wouldn't it be great to give that feeling to others, not just to notice if someone is left out, but to go above and beyond by making sure they feel included and an equal part of the group? You can let someone join in, but actually welcoming someone into a group with happiness and enthusiasm, is going above and beyond.

Christians believe Jesus came into the world for everyone. He often spent time with people that others ignored or refused to include. Jesus believed in inclusion and welcomed everyone. Christians also believe that Jesus showed us how to live our best lives/lives to the full, and that we should try to follow his example.

Game/Activity: Odd One Out - Or is it?

NOTE FOR PERSON DELIVERING THE ASSEMBLY: THERE ISN'T REALLY AN ODD ONE OUT IN EACH GROUP. ONE MIGHT SEEM DIFFERENT TO THE OTHERS (SUCH AS TOMATO) BUT IS ACTUALLY THE SAME (FRUIT) AND IS INCLUDED IN THAT GROUP/CATEGORY.¹

Show children either items or pictures of from different groups, for example...

1. Hats – woolly hat, sun hat, baseball hat, party hat
2. Mammals – Whale, elephant, horse, dog
3. Fruit – strawberry, apple, banana, tomato
4. Vegetables – broccoli, carrot, rhubarb, potatoes
5. Birds – robin, penguin, eagle, dove

For each group ask the children which is the odd one out? Why? There might be lots of good reasons why they've chosen a particular item!! All quite right but actually ...

This was just a game - but I wonder if sometimes we might exclude something, or someone, that we think is different from the rest of the group, but actually is the same? They are ALL hats, ALL Mammals, ALL Fruits, ALL Vegetables!!



Main Content: We've been hearing some amazing stories about the early church, how they shared what they had with others and cared for those in need who were part of the church – but what about those on the outside, those who were different? Our story today is all about somebody just like that ...

Bible Story: Acts 10: 9-16 Peter's Dream - Jesus came for Everyone

Peter was sat on the flat roof of a house. The sun was high in the sky and his stomach was beginning to rumble. Peter began to think about what was for lunch; he was always careful to obey all the Jewish laws that he had followed when he first met Jesus, only eating certain foods, to keep himself holy for God.

Suddenly Peter saw a strange vision. A sheet appeared in the sky above him and began to float down towards the roof. Peter blinked hard, but the sheet was still there. As it got closer, Peter saw it was full of food, reptiles and birds and all kinds of animals. "Get up and have something to eat," a voice spoke in Peter's ear; it was the voice of God.

"I can't eat this!" Peter argued, his stomach still rumbling. "This food is not allowed. It is un-clean."

"I can make anything clean that I choose," God explained. "Come on, eat something."

"Nope!" Peter insisted. "I won't eat that stuff."

"I am telling you it is alright," God said once more. "You are allowed to do it. I know you are hungry, now eat."

"Never!" Peter shouted and the sheet vanished. "I wonder what that was all about?" Peter thought to himself.

From downstairs there was a knock at the door. It was the servants of a man called Cornelius, an officer in the Roman army.

"Our master wants to meet you," they explained. "Cornelius and his whole family have become followers of God. He had a vision that you would be here and sent us to find you."

Peter was very puzzled as he followed the men; had God really spoken to somebody who didn't follow the Jewish law? He knew that the Romans ate strange foods of all kinds like the ones he had seen on the sheet. Could it be that God was trying to teach him something? "What would Jesus have done?" Peter thought to himself.

Peter had followed Jesus for many years. He had seen him speak to lots of Jewish people, but he had also watched him meet and care for people who nobody else would talk to, like Zacchaeus the tax collector who Jesus went to lunch with, like the lepers who Jesus had prayed for and healed, like the time that Jesus welcomed all the little children and drew them close.



"I am telling you it is alright." God's voice from earlier still rang in Peter's ears.

As Peter arrived at Cornelius' house he finally understood. Of course Jesus' message of love wasn't just for Jewish people like Peter; it was for everybody, from all over the world, and this was just the beginning!

Pupil Response: How did Peter change his ideas? He came to realise that God's love is for everyone.

What was God showing him? That he should go above and beyond and include everyone, just like Jesus did.

How do you think Cornelius felt? How might he have felt if Peter had refused to see him? Excluded.

Reflection: Paul wrote in a letter to other Christians, (Galatians 3:28) 'Now, in Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek. There is no difference between slaves and free men. There is no difference between male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus.'

At first, Peter and the other disciples thought that only Jews, like them, should know about Jesus and God, but they realised that Jesus wanted everyone to know; he wanted everyone to be included. They had to change their attitude from exclusion to inclusion.

Christians believe that God loves and knows everyone, and he wants everyone to know about him and feel his love. Christians believe that we should be inclusive and accepting, open and welcoming to everyone. Jesus included everyone, even those rejected by society.

Sometimes it's easier to just include people who are like us and exclude those who are different. But what might we miss out on? Sometimes we need to step beyond what we know and embrace the differences.

How can we show we want to include not exclude?

What difference can we make to a group?

Is there anyone you exclude? How could you change that?

How can you go above and beyond to include and welcome others? In school? In activities you do? In your street/community?

Prayer: Dear God, You always include because you love everyone. Help us to have an attitude of inclusion. Show us how we can be welcoming and include others with happiness and enthusiasm. Help us to stand up to those who exclude other people because they may appear different to them. Amen.



6. Above & Beyond: Courage

Theme: We need to have courage to face our fears and step into the future. To go above and beyond is not to tiptoe into the unknown but to take flight, to soar like eagles. This worship encourages children to think about their hopes and dreams for the future and to have the courage to go above and beyond to become their best selves in all they do and to consider who can help them soar. May we soar like eagles and keep going as we face the future with courage.

Bible Reference: 2 Timothy 1 - 4, Isaiah 40 v 31

Resources: A4 paper to make paper aeroplanes, picture of an eagle soaring

Introduction: This term we have thought about how we can go above and beyond. How we can aim to be our best selves. Can you remember what our assemblies have been about? (The values of Generosity, Compassion, Reconciliation, and Inclusion.)

At the end of the school year, we often think about the future. For many of you there will be new challenges ahead. Some of you will be going beyond primary school and moving on to a new school. Some of you will be moving on to the new challenge of the year above. Some of you might be aiming to do something new this summer holiday. This can be exciting but can also be quite scary.

Today's assembly is about courage. We need to have courage to face our fears and step into the future. To go above and beyond is not to tiptoe into the unknown but to take flight, to soar like eagles.

Game/Activity: Soaring High

Invite a couple of children to make a paper aeroplane. Ask them to think about their hopes and dreams for the future (do they have the courage to share their thoughts with everyone?) as they launch their aeroplanes into the air get them to imagine that is what it is like having the courage to take flight and to soar like an eagle into the future.

For the other children not making an aeroplane, get them to think about their hopes and dreams and share if appropriate.

Main Content: I wonder what hopes and dreams you came up with during the game - how you can make those dreams happen? Who might be able to help you as you work to achieve them? In our story today we are thinking about a young man who had big dreams and the people around him that helped him achieve them.

Bible Story: Timothy – Those who help us soar

Timothy frowned. He had a difficult task ahead of him, preparing the teaching for their next church meeting. "I am so young," Timothy thought to himself. "It is so hard to know what to say, especially when everybody else in the church is so much older than me. I am not sure I'm the right person to be in charge."

Just then there was a knock on the door; it was Timothy's mother Eunice. "How is it going?" she asked.



"Not very well," Timothy replied honestly. "I'm tired and I don't really know what to write."

"Maybe this will help," Eunice passed him a letter. "It's from your friend Paul. He always encourages you and believes in you, just like I do."

Timothy opened the letter. Paul hadn't been to visit them for a while as he was always travelling, speaking and teaching at different churches in different cities.

"Remember that you can use all of the writings of God to help teach people," Paul's letter explained. "I know you know lots of passages, because your mother and grandma have taught you so well. Don't let people think you are not good enough just because you are younger than them. Be brave and show courage. I believe in you."

Timothy smiled. He always felt better after hearing from Paul. There was a knock at the door; it was his grandmother Lois.

"I hear you are struggling. Can I help?" she asked gently.

"I'm feeling tired," Timothy explained. "But I have to write something down ready for our next church meeting. What if I can't think of anything to say, or if people don't think I am a very good speaker?"

"Remember what the prophet Isaiah said," Lois replied gently. "God doesn't ever get tired. He gives strength to the tired and power to the weak, so that they can rise up like eagles in the sky. God will help you come up with the words to say and help you to share them with others."

"Thank you, Grandma," Timothy smiled. "That's exactly what I needed to hear, and in fact, that's given me a great idea for what I should share with everybody else!"

"Happy to help," Lois said as she made her way to the door.

Timothy looked down at the blank page in front of him. Suddenly he felt wide awake. "I don't feel worried or scared anymore," he realised. "God has given me everything I need. I can do this!"

Pupil response: Who helped Timothy in the story? What might have held him back from achieving his dreams? How did he show courage?

Reflection: In Isaiah 40 v 31 it says, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles."

Have you ever seen an eagle high up in the air? It hardly seems to do anything; that's because they spread their wings out and use the air currents to hold them up high. Christians believe that God will always support and hold us up in whatever we do, so that we can soar higher.

Dreams are one step beyond where we are now, and it takes courage to pursue them. Where do you want to go? What do you want to be or to do? Can you launch your dream and take off into the beyond?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you that you are with us wherever we go and whatever we do. May we soar like eagles and keep going as we face the future with courage. Please help us to go above and beyond, to become our best selves. Amen.