



12. A mountain of memories



Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are reflecting on the story of Moses and journeying with him as he leads God’s people from Egypt and to the Promised Land. At the beginning of a new school year, it is always good to be back together as a community, and so we are using the story of Moses to help us to reflect on some important ideas from this story about being community together and about God, who looked after them. These stories can be found in the Bible, the Torah and the Qur’an, recognising Moses as a prophet and leader in all three of these Abrahamic traditions: these stories often generate some challenging questions about judgement and justice (especially from older pupils), so in these collective worship resources, we choose to emphasise the positive messages and outcomes e.g. God seeing and responding to the cruel treatment of the people, and being *with* his people. We are very grateful to [FreeBibleImages](#) for the use of their PowerPoint slides and images for many of the assemblies this term.



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

This week, the focus is on **remembering what we have learned as a community** during this series, and taking time out of a busy week, like God’s people, to look back, tell our stories and be grateful.

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today’s script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **The opening question ‘Can an object help us to remember?’ may need you to share some examples to get the discussion started: if you can find some that are meaningful in your classroom context, all the better!**
- **You will need some pebbles, readily available from your local garden centre. (NB not from a beach!)** Sharpies work best for writing on pebbles, but use with care, as they don’t wash out of clothes!

Gathering:

- **Slides 1&2:** Use this two-step gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. Why not invent some actions to make them extra memorable?!
- **Leader:** On the journey of life....
- **Children:** ...we are glad to be together in our school community.
- **Leader:** As we gather together....
- **Children:** ...may we learn from each other and hear from God.



Engaging:

- **Slide 3:** We’re going to start our time together today with a question to talk about: **‘Can an object help us to remember?’** [with younger children, they may need some examples, so bring some that mean something to you]
- **Slide 4:** Just a few weeks ago, we used an object, a poppy, to help us to remember that soldiers all across the world, died to bring peace to our nations.
- **Slide 5:** During this term, we have been using the saga of Moses and his adventures with God’s people to help us as we think about our own school community. Our story today comes from the very end of that story as the people get to the very edge of their brand new home. It is also a story about another beginning, about a man named Joshua, who became the leader of God’s people after Moses died.....[use script p.3, slides 6-11]
- **Slide 6:** God had chosen Joshua to lead the Jewish people on the final part of their long journey from Egypt. The Jordan River was the last big obstacle in their path as they neared the land that God had promised would be their new home. During harvest time, the river was very full, and flowed very fast, and so as Joshua led the people closer, they wondered how they would get to the other side. But Joshua knew that God had already solved this problem!
- **Slide 7:** God had spoken to Joshua and told him that just as he had helped Moses cross the Red Sea when they were fleeing from the Egyptians, so he would help them get through the Jordan River. With



them, God's people carried their most precious possession – a box that contained God's special rules, the Ten Commandments, that God had given to Moses. This box was called the Ark of the Covenant of God's Promise (that's a BIG name!) and was carried by priests.

- **Slide 8:** God told Joshua: 'Tell the priests carrying the ark that when they reach the edge of the river, they are to stand in the water.'

And so that's what happened. When the priests carrying the Ark reached the edge of the Jordan, they put their feet into the river at the edge of the bank. As they did, the waters of the river parted, and the priests walked into the middle on dry land, carrying the ark.

- **Slide 9:** Once all the people had crossed on dry land, God spoke once more to Joshua: 'Choose twelve men from among the people – one from each tribe. Tell them to choose a stone from the middle of the river and make a pile on the river bank, where you are standing. These stones will help you to remember for all time what has happened here today.'
- **Slide 10:** As their feet touched the river bank, the waters of the Jordan River covered the river bed once more.
- **Slide 11:** And Joshua told the people that when their children, or grandchildren, or great-grandchildren or great-great-grandchildren asked what the stones were for, that they should be told the story of how God parted the River Jordan so that the people could walk through on dry land, and always remember what God had done for them.
- **Slide 12:** The stones that God's people gathered were supposed to help them to remember.....

Slide 13: Responding (words for worship):

Let's wonder together....I wonder why God wanted his people to remember?

I wonder what stories God's people told their children? I wonder what might help us to remember? I wonder why it might be good for us to remember together? [talk about your ideas together]



Slide 14: We're going to use some stones of our own to create our own 'mountain of memories' here / in each classroom. [explain how you want this to work, demonstrating your own if you think it will help. You could ask the teachers to help so that you have a small pile in the hall to show children what their class 'cairn' might look like.]

....in the stillness of this moment, let's be quiet and think.....

....in the story we heard, God's people placed twelve large stones to help them to remember....

....the stones were to help them to tell their children and their grandchildren stories about what God had done for them.....

...our stones are going to help us to remember too....

....in the stillness now, think about what you might write or draw on your stone *before you add it to the pile.....*

I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now. If you'd like to pray too, then find a way to make it your own....

Slide 15: Dear God

It's good to be able to remember together and to tell each other stories of our life together at school. Help us as we live each day, to remember with grateful hearts all the memories that are a part of our lives.

Slide 16: Amen

Sending: Slide 17

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

All: May today's words help us to become a stronger community.



To listen to / sing:

[Every Step \(Official Lyric Video\) - Nick & Becky Drake - YouTube](#) Listen or join in to this Christian song that, like God's people, helps Christians remember that God is with them every step they take.

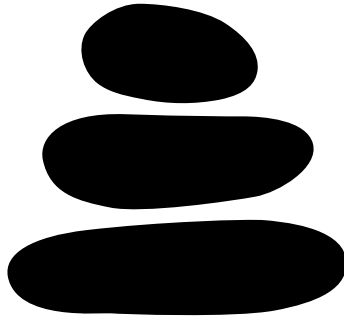
Reflective activity: Stone cairns



Leave some stones in your classroom reflective area for children to use during the week. Sharpies work best for writing on pebbles, but use with care, as they don't wash out of clothes very easily!

If you want to keep a record on paper, provide some stone-coloured paper for children to cut out and stick into their small reflective journal.





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God's people had arrived in their new home, with lots of different memories of their journey – and what God had done for them.



Talk together about your school's journey through this term – and your adventures together. What will you remember?

Take a stone and hold it in your hand while you think.



When you are ready, write or draw on your stone before you add it to the pile.

You might also want to pray.

