

5. Always room for more....

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we begin a series of themes based on wise words – all of them from the Bible, all of them ancient advice about how to live, but in our modern world, they often sound surprisingly up to date! We link this ancient wisdom to stories from across the world and across cultures in the first half of the term, and continue today with a story from the Sikh religion about Guru Nanak.



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

Throughout this term, we encourage you to link each week’s collective worship to your school vision – and the way that you live this out through your values. Most of the themes should easily allow for this.

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.
- **You will also need to set some kind of packing challenge at the very start i.e. how much can you pack into a suitcase, or marbles in a jar, Lego® in a box etc. The idea is that it gets very difficult, if not impossible, to squeeze more in towards the end of the challenge, as this is an image that Guru Nanak uses to talk about holiness in the world.**
- **If you want to use a real bowl of liquid, then you will need a bowl that you can fill very full of water (or milk, as in the story). You will also need some flower heads, or artificial / paper flowers. You will need to check first that you can float the flower on the bowl without any liquid spilling out, or the point of the illustration in the story will be lost. There is a very good BBC retelling of this story, [here: [Religious Studies KS1: Sikh stories - BBC Teach](#)] but check that it won’t spoil RE for any pupils studying Sikhi in their classrooms!**
- **Reflective prayer activity:** There is no reflection card for this week to encourage you to get practical and find some ways to help wildlife this winter.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Use our new gathering words. Why not invent your own actions to accompany them?



- **Leader: We are here together**
- **Children: With ears ready to hear and hands ready to serve.**
- **All: May we be wise in all our actions today.**

Engaging:

- **Slide 2:** As you know by now, we are thinking about Wise Words this term – and what we can learn from them about how to live well in our own school community – and lives! So, let’s get right to our words from Solomon’s book of Proverbs at the start of our time together today.
- **Slide 3: ‘The lives of good people are like lights in the darkness.’** I wonder what you think these words mean? *[talk together briefly, as you will come back to them at the end.]* We’ll come back to these words towards the end of our time together today, but now.....
- **Slide 4:** ...another challenge! *[set your own packing challenge in the way that you have decided. Hopefully you’ll discover]* This picture of trying to get more into a container is going to be an important image for our story today.....
- **Slide 5:** ...which comes from the **Sikhi religion** (also known as ‘Sikhism’). This religion began in northern India with a very wise teacher called Guru Nanak, who was the first guru – or teacher – of the religion. Like we heard last week about the importance of the words of Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings be upon him) to Muslims in our story about the cosy kittens, the words of the gurus are very important to Sikhs, and it’s some words of Guru Nanak which are going to help us today as we think about our wise words.
- **Slide 6:** This is a very famous story about Guru Nanak, the milk and the jasmine flower – and some words that have inspired Sikhs all over the world since....
- **Slide 7:** Guru Nanak travelled all over **India** with his best friend Mardana, sharing messages of kindness and peace.



- **Slide 8:** Some towns would welcome them, but others would **not!** Some people liked their old ways and were afraid of change. As Guru Nanak and Mardana entered a town one day, they were met by the leaders of that town. Nanak had heard that they had been greedy and unkind to the townspeople and wanted to show them that they could change. But the leaders were frightened by Guru Nanak's kindness.
- **Slide 9:** So they sent a messenger carrying a bowl full of milk – and a message. *[use your own bowl illustration here if you're doing it live]* 'Our city is full, like this bowl of milk. There is no room for you or your friend here!'
- You might think that this was very rude, but Guru Nanak was very gentle, and did a very strange thing. He picked a jasmine flower from a nearby plant and **floated** it on the surface of the milk. '**There is always room for more holiness in the world.**' he told them.
- **Slide 10:** Let's just pause and wonder about this story, and Guru Nanak's words.

....I wonder what the leaders felt when they heard Guru Nanak's words?....

.....I wonder what it means to have 'more holiness' in the world?....

....I wonder how these words help Sikhs today?....

[talk together for a short while]

Slide 11: 'The lives of good people are like lights in the darkness.'

We started our time together today with these words. I wonder what you think these words mean? *[talk together again]*

[For older pupils...] – and what connection they might have with Guru Nanak's words?

Slides 11&12: Responding and words for worship

For each person these words might mean different things. For Sikhi people being light in the darkness, bringing more holiness into the world, will happen by following the teachings of the gurus; for Muslims, following the example of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and for Christians, doing what Jesus did. For others it might have nothing to do with God but everything to do with trying to become a better person.



Let's wonder together again.....

.....I wonder what in our lives might shine like 'lights in the darkness'?.....

....I wonder what our world might need more of?.....

....and whether we might be just the people to do something about it?....

....I wonder how we might be able to bring more goodness – and light – into our school today?.....

As we come to pray now, let's be quiet and still with our own thoughts.

You might already have been thinking of some things that we might be able to do so that *our lives* shine like lights in the darkness. Bring those thoughts into your mind now. *[you might want to allow pupils to suggest some ideas here so that you can use their ideas in your prayer if you would like to]* Think about what you might do today to help this to happen.

For some people, living like a light in the darkness is just not possible without God's help, so that's what I am going to pray now. Find a way to make the prayer yours if you would like to.

Slide 13: Prayer

God, who is the light in the darkness, help us as we try to be like you – to shine our light of goodness and holiness in this dark world. Help us we pray.

Slide 14: Amen

Sending: Slide 15

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

All: May today's words help us to make wise choices.



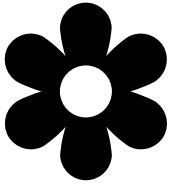
To listen to / sing:

[City on a hill \(NBD\)](#)



[Walking in the light](#) (POP UK)

Or [Hello!](#) (AAOS) if you want to pick up the welcoming theme.

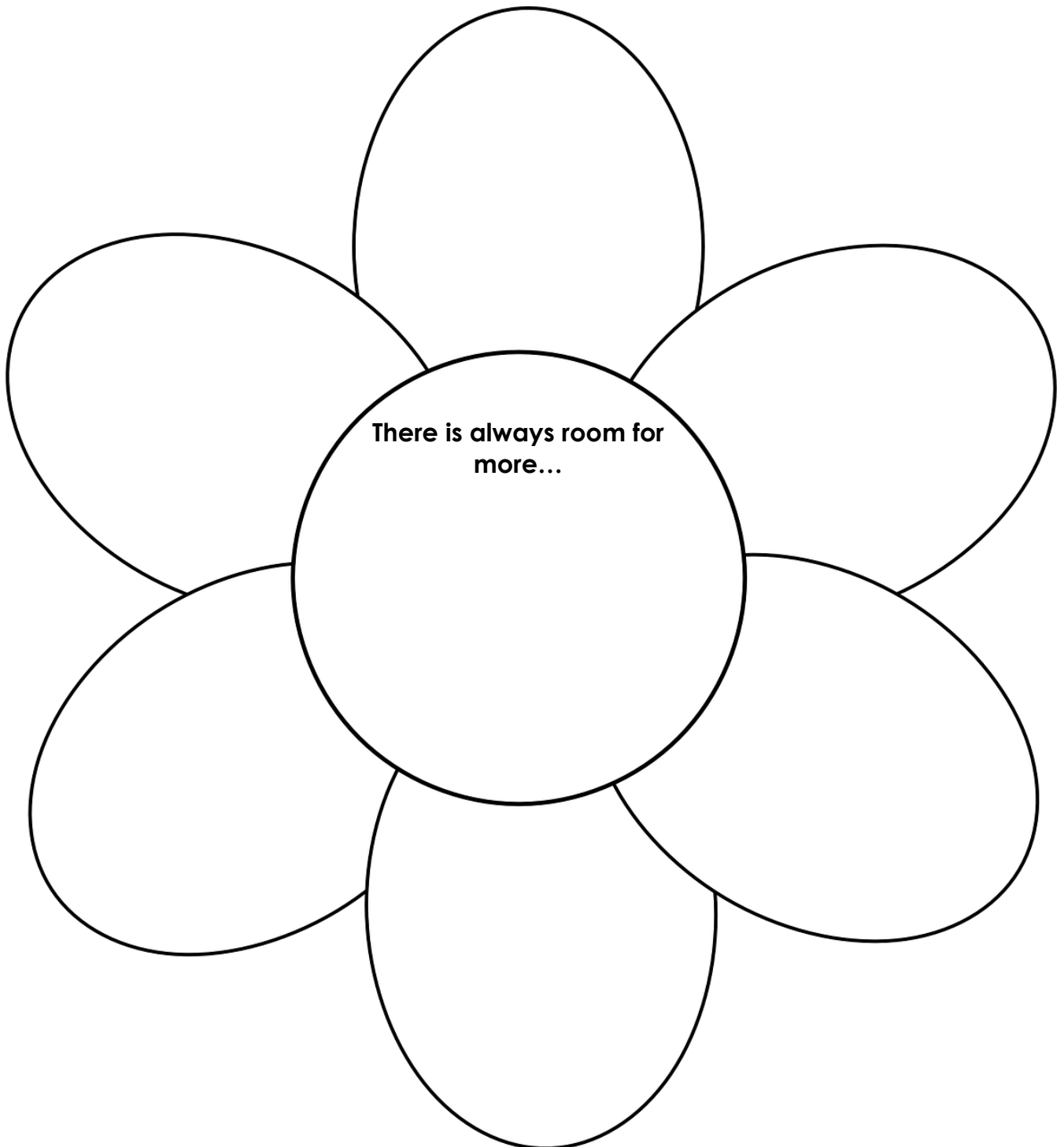


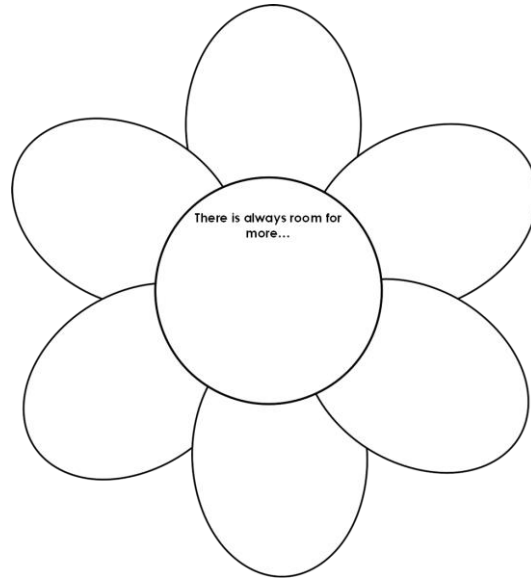
Slide 16: Reflective areas

Make flower shapes out of paper and write on them the finished sentence: 'There's always room for more....' It's best to use pencils rather than felt pens so that the words don't run when in contact with the water!

Fold in the petals of your flower then float the flowers in a large bowl of water and watch them open up to reveal your ideas.

Flower to print & cut out for your reflective area (change size if needed):





“The lives of good people are like lights in the darkness.”



Think about what it means to live a good life. Remember Guru Nanak’s words about there always being ‘room for more holiness’.



Talk together about what you think our world needs more of.



Write your words in the centre of a paper flower and fold the petals in to the middle. Now float them in water together. You might want to pray as the petals open.

