



7. Lent – living wisely

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 Bible, reflecting how Jesus followed good advice from his Father – which is the advice in our wise words from Proverbs today!



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. It is especially important for the reflective follow-up this week that you think about how your school values help you to make good decisions.

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 using resources suggested within the script.
- **There is a reflective story using road signs to help children think about the season of Lent, and how Jesus followed what was written in the words of the Torah (which was, after all, his Father’s advice!) In the story, it refers to the name that the Bible gives to the devil, Satan. He is also called God’s enemy, or the tempter. Use whichever terms you feel are best for your pupils wherever you see the *. You may also want to explain this to your children before you start.**
- **Reflection areas: write your school value words onto cards for your reflection areas this week.**

Gathering:

- **Slide 1:** Use our gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer.



Engaging:

- **Slide 2: Let’s start with our wise words for today.....**
- **Slide 3: ‘A wise child follows their parent’s good advice’**
Like road signs, we all have people in our lives whose advice we trust – advice that helps us to make good decisions *[you might want to unpack this a bit here]*
- **Slide 4:** So today, we’re going to turn to some road signs to help us with our story – and our wise words – for today. First, let’s remind ourselves what some of them mean when we see them on our roads – and then we’ll use them in a rather different way!
- **Slides 5-11: Road signs**
- **Slide 12: Reduce speed**
Like Advent, Lent is a special time of preparation for Christians a time to prepare for Easter... a time to live differently....a time to slow down and reflect....as we are going to do today
- **Slide 13:** Christians look to the life and example of Jesus to help them to know how to live, a bit like the way that road signs help people to know what to do on the road. Christians will be reflecting on the life of Jesus especially during the 40 days of Lent. The story of Jesus in the desert is one of these important stories and has links to the things that Christians do during this special time of getting ready for Easter.
- **Slides 14-23 Tell the story (p.3)**



Responding (and words for worship): slide 24

We heard at the start that ‘a wise child follows their parent’s good advice.’ For Jesus, this was God himself. Jesus trusted God’s words to help him to overcome the temptations in the desert and to make good choices.



Slide 25: Let’s wonder together now....

....I wonder what difference Lent makes to Christians?.... I wonder how it helps them to prepare for Easter?.... I wonder what difference it might make if we were to live differently during Lent...at school, or at home?... I wonder how our Wise Words might help us?...
[recap some of them here]



I'm going to use a prayer that's been written especially for Lent. You might like to make it your own, or prefer to continue to be still and quiet with your own thoughts:

Slide 26:

God of all wisdom,

Help us to work together to share what we have, so that everyone has what they need.

Help us to build a better world, where each of us can become the best person we can be.

Help us to live differently during this season of Lent.

[based on a prayer written by CAFOD]

Slide 27: Amen

Sending: Slide 28

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 sing / listen to:

[God is watching](#) (AAOS)

[The Golden Rule](#) (NBD)

[You Lead us through the Wilderness](#) – Song by Sam Hargreaves Engage Worship.

Slide 29: Reflection areas

Look at your school value words: how do they help you to make good choices?



Road signs reflection

Each road sign is included within the PowerPoint - and on the next page for you to print out



Slide 15: After his **baptism**....(sorry!),



Slide 16: Jesus was led into the desert – which may have seemed like a **wrong turn**, and not quite what anyone was expecting after such a mountain-top experience. He was there for 40 days.



Slide 17: Because Jesus was **human**, like us, after 40 days without food, he was hungry, and the tempter*, God's enemy, came to test him.



Slide 18: 'Turn these **rocks** into bread' the tempter* told Jesus. But Jesus would not be tempted. 'It says in the Torah that we are not to depend on the bread that we eat, but on the words that God speaks to us,' Jesus replied.



Slide 19: Then the tempter* took Jesus up to a **high place**. 'If you were to jump off here, angels would rescue you.' But Jesus would not be tempted.



Slide 20: Then the tempter* took him up to an **even higher place** and showed him the whole world. 'Bow down and worship me and all this will be yours!' the devil said. But Jesus would still not be tempted.



Slide 21: 'It is written that we should **worship only God**' Jesus said. 'Now leave me!' he told the tempter*. And he did.



Slide 22: And so, the 40 days of Lent give Christians a chance to remember how Jesus followed God's way, and



to try to do the same, **loving God and loving others**, wherever they go. But it's not always easy....



Slide 23: ...in fact, living in this way is **hard work!**....

because as human beings, we often find it easier to think about ourselves. But the Wise Words we've been thinking about so far this term might just help us to do this. Maybe you'd like to be a part of the challenge this Lent, to live according to the good advice we've heard, because every little helps!



Slide 24: The good news is that we're not doing this alone: we can encourage one another to keep doing good.....and if we want to, we can ask God to help us too.





“A wise child follows their parent’s good advice.”



Think about some good advice you’ve been given by someone you trust.



Talk together about how good advice can help us to make wise choices.

How might our Wise Words help?



Look at the cards with your school’s values written on them. Use them to help you to make good choices this week – and during Lent!

