** 8. What’s love got to do with it?**

*There is an accompanying PowerPoint for this assembly*

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| **Age range:** Primary |
| **Theme:** This term, we are thinking about leaders, leading and following, and now continue our theme looking at leaders from across the world and across history, to inspire us to be better leaders – and followers! – ourselves. We will look at wise words and wise lives, as well as use some key religious dates on the calendar to connect us with stories about leaders. This week, the focus is on the story of St. Paul, his courageous leadership of the early Church, and some very famous words that he wrote about the importance of love. |
| **Diamond How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?**This week, we are linking to the values of courage, perseverance and love, as shown in the leadership and letters of St. Paul.  |
| **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.
* 6 plastic water bottles, empty & dry, for messages to be inserted into. Label the bottles 1-6, and insert messages in, using the order below (& resources included). In order to be able to take them out easily, roll each tightly & clip with a paperclip. You can scatter these around the room if desired: **DANGER!!; 2. PRISON!!; 3. TRIAL BY ROMANS!!; 4. SHIPWRECKED!!; 5. SNAKEBITE!!; 6. HOUSE ARREST!!**
* **Reflective activity:** this week, you will need an old map cut into strips and a large 1-litre plastic bottle, empty, washed and dried. There is also an optional finger labyrinth using Paul’s words about love, to print out for your reflection area.
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| Door Open**Gathering:** * **Slide 1:** Use these new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. The greeting comes with BSL signing, you can view the demos using links under the slide.

**Leader:** As we share these stories of leaders…**ALL:** May we follow their example in **thoughts** and **words** and **actions**. |
| Puzzle**Engaging:** * **Slide 2: Love is…..**I wonder how you might finish this sentence starter? It’s an idea that we will return to later during our time together.....
* **Slide 3:**  Our story for today is about this man, who Christians call St. Paul. Paul became a Christian when he had a vision of Jesus as he was travelling to a place called Damascus, in Syria. He was so changed by this encounter with Jesus that he spent the rest of his life travelling around (about 10,000 miles!) to tell as many people as he could about what Jesus had done. Along with Peter, whose story we heard last week, he was one of the very first leaders of the Church.
* Many of the journeys he took were dangerous, and we’re going to hear about some of them using these *[show water bottle]* – but with messages in, just like you might use if you were sending an ‘SOS’ to be rescued from a desert island. As you hear his story, think what we might learn about being a leader….. *[Use the bottles in order, with the script overleaf for some clarification. If you want to read the original stories, the Bible references are given]*
* **Slide 25:** In one of them, to the church in Jerusalem, he wrote: **“Run the race with perseverance! Keep on going and don’t give up!”** He wasn’t talking about an actual race, but the feeling that life is sometimes hard, like running in a race and getting tired. I wonder if you’ve ever felt like that? He also wrote some of the most famous words in the Bible about love: advice that we’re going to listen to as we think how these wise words might help us to be better leaders – and followers.
* **Slide 26-28:** *[slides 26&27 are optional]* Listen now, you might want to close your eyes to help you to concentrate…. ….**I wonder how these words might help us, here in our school?....**
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| Thought bubble**Slide 29: Responding (words for worship):** **….so in the stillness of this moment, let’s spend some time thinking together…..**…in the stillness, think about the things that we’ve heard today, about Paul and the dangers he faced to tell others about Jesus….….about how he kept on going and didn’t give up…..….and about how important he felt love was on the journey of life…**I wonder whether the words we’ve heard about persevering, or about love, might help us to be better leaders – and followers?...**…**I wonder why Paul felt that love was more important than anything?....****…I wonder what *you* think that ‘love is’?…**Take a few moments of quiet now to think…..As a kind of prayer today, I am going to use Paul’s words about love. You might just want to listen, or perhaps to pray as you listen, that God will help us to show love like this….**Slide 30: Prayer [read slowly]****Love is kind and patient, never jealous, boastful, proud or rude. Love isn’t selfish or quick-tempered. It doesn’t keep a record of wrongs that others do. Love rejoices in the truth, but not in evil. Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful and trusting. Love never fails!****Slide 31: Amen** |
| **Sending: Slide 32****Leader:** As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead…**All:** ….**may we show each other what ‘love is….’ this week.** |
| **To listen to / sing:** [Golden Rule](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=se6gQUVscnw) ([Actions](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMG1cTxUp5I)) or [Together as one](https://www.popuk.org/membership-songs#block-yui_3_17_2_1_1605295413989_4640) or [Let’s learn how to love](https://www.popuk.org/membership-songs#block-yui_3_17_2_1_1605295413989_4640) (POP UK) |
| **Map  Description automatically generated\*\*Reflective activity:** Cut an old map up into strips and put them in your reflective area with a large 1-litre plastic bottle, empty, washed and dried. Children can write prayers / thoughts about love or perseverance on the strips and post them into the bottle, mirroring what you did in the collective worship.Also print out and laminate the finger labyrinth on p5, which can also be used as a way to encourage pupils to think. |

**Script for the 6 water bottles – with links to slides**

**1. DANGER!! [Acts 14:8-28] (LYSTRA) *Slides 4&5***

Crowds tried to hurt Paul because of the things he was saying about God, and they threw him out of the city. Paul began one of several journeys around the Mediterranean, telling everyone stories about Jesus.

**2. PRISON! [Acts 16:11-40] (PHILIPPI) *Slides 6&7***

In Philippi, Paul was put in prison. That night, as he and his friend Silas were praying and singing, God shook the earth with an earthquake that opened all the doors of the prison and shook the chains off the prisoners.

***Slide 8:*** Although they were free, Paul and Silas didn’t want the jailer to get into trouble because they’d escaped, so they stayed behind and waited. The jailer was so impressed, he became a follower of Jesus and the leaders in Philippi let Paul and Silas go.

***Slides 9&10*** [Acts 18:1-18] Paul then travelled through parts of Greece. In a Greek city, named Corinth, Paul had a dream in which God spoke to him and told him that he would keep them safe, no matter what.

**3. TRIAL BY ROMANS!! [*Acts 21:27-23:35; also Acts 24&25]* (JERUSALEM) *Slide 11,12&13***

Paul then travelled back to the church in Jerusalem. There, he was arrested and sent before the Romans to be tried – and punished. The Roman governor sent Paul to Rome.

**4. SHIPWRECKED!! [Acts 27:1-44] (MALTA) *Slide 14&15***

***Slide 16:*** On his way to Rome, a storm blew in, and the boat began to sink.

***Slide 17:*** Paul told everyone on the boat what God had said about no-one being harmed, & that the storm would shipwreck them on an island. ***Slide 18***

**5. SNAKEBITE!! [Acts 28:1-6] (MALTA) *Slides 19-21***

On the island of Malta, where they were shipwrecked, Paul was bitten by a snake, but the poison didn’t harm him! He then continued on his way to Rome.

**6. HOUSE ARREST!! [Acts 28:11-31; letters to Timothy & Titus] (ROME)**

***Slides 22-24:*** In Rome, Paul was put under house arrest, which meant he wasn’t allowed to leave the place where he was staying. People think that Paul lived like this for about 2 years, waiting for his trial as a Roman citizen.

What happened after this, no-one is quite sure, and Paul may have been allowed to visit some of the churches that he had set up, but we do know that he wrote lots of letters to the very first church leaders, encouraging them.

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***Paul wrote: ‘Love is patient and kind…***

***…love is always loyal, supportive and trusting…***

***…love never fails!’…***

**Love is……**

**Use the finger labyrinth to help you to think about Paul’s words about love.**

**Talk about how having love like this might help someone to be a better leader – or a better follower.**

**Write a thought or a prayer about love on a strip of map, then post it into the bottle. As you do, ask God to help you, if you’d like to.**

***Finger labyrinth:***

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