



ADVENTURE MAP

ASSEMBLIES

April 2019

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Introduction

These assemblies are designed to be used alongside Thy Kingdom Come 2019 Adventure Map (aimed at key stage 2 children and years 4–6 in particular). The 11 days of prayer start in half term on Ascension Day (May 30th) and finish on Pentecost Sunday (June 9th).

You may like to prepare children to celebrate Ascension as they begin using the prayer map at home with their families or friends, or even on their own, so we have prepared an **Ascension Day** assembly. If you want to pick up the adventure theme you could use any of the following themes:

It's an adventure: **Who's coming?**

It's an adventure: **What shall we bring?**

It's an adventure: **Where are we going?**

Afterwards, you may want to celebrate **Pentecost Sunday**, so there is an assembly for you to use with the children on the following week if you want to mark it in school.

The material is designed for use with years 4–6 but could be adapted to suit a wider age range.

Each assembly follows the same format to help make it easy to use:

1. Assembly title
2. Bible reference for the assembly topic
3. Resources you will need
4. Teaching point of the assembly
5. Clear assembly outline
6. Way to respond
7. Song or music suggestions
8. Prayer to be used if appropriate

1. Ascension day: (Getting started on your adventure map)

Assembly title: Looking up

Bible reference: Acts 1: 1–11

Resources: Hiking kit such as Walking boots, hiking socks, backpack, water bottle etc

Teaching Point: Jesus goes up high to pray for us and all the world

Assembly outline:

1. Who here likes climbing? Getting right up to the top and being able to look down to the ground below?
2. Have any of you been up to the top of the Eiffel tower? The Leaning Tower of Pisa? The Tower of London? A cathedral tower or local high place the children would be familiar with?
3. Maybe some of you have been on a big walk where you have climbed up to the top of a hill. Perhaps some have even had the chance to climb up a mountain (Show some of the kit). When we do that we get the chance to see things differently, to be away from the distractions and noise around us.
4. Some of us find going up high a bit scary – we start to feel our legs wobble and our hearts race, and we can't wait to get down to solid ground.
5. The Bible tells us that God's son Jesus often took himself off to a high place – a mountain or hillside – where he could get away from the noise and the people of the city and spend time in prayer: talking with his Father God and knowing that he would be able to speak and listen without anything getting in the way.
6. Jesus, God's son, needed to stay really close to his father, to hear what his father wanted him to do, and to be able to follow. The way that he did that was to pray every day. He prayed with other people in a place of prayer (the temple or the synagogue) and he also prayed with his friends, his disciples. He knew this mattered so much that he taught them to pray too. After Jesus died (we remember this on Good Friday) he came alive again (we remember this on Easter Sunday). He then spent 40 more days with his friends teaching them and helping them get ready to continue the work he had started.
7. On day 40 he went up to heaven to be with his father and carried on praying for them and all the world so that they could stay close to God the father too.
8. Jesus is always thinking about us and always praying for us to know the father and to stay close to him, even if we feel we are alone or that no one is thinking about us.
9. We don't even need to go anywhere to pray. We can pray right where we are knowing that before we even get ready to pray Jesus is praying for us and with us.

Way to respond:

In these next 10 days why not try and take a moment to pray each day. If you are not used to it, it may feel a bit strange at first. Find a place where you can go to pray.

Maybe it is a quiet corner of your bedroom. Maybe in the garden or park or a corner of the playground. Maybe a special building – a church near where you live or a chapel or prayer place at school.

You could try a breathing prayer you can pray on your own remembering that God is with you. Breathe out, and as you do pray that God will hear all the things that you are concerned about: a person who is unwell, an unkind thing you said to another person, a worry about the test you have coming up or someone you know who is not happy. As you breathe think of Jesus praying with you and for you and the concerns you have. Then breathe in and think of the love Jesus has for you and for the person or situation you are praying for. Do that for a couple of minutes and then thank Jesus that he is always praying even when you are not.

Song: 'Always with me' Worship for Everyone (Nick and Becky Drake)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, Thank you that you are always with me. Help me stay close to you and to remember that you are always praying for me and for all the world. When I look down and forget to look up at you, help me to remember to look up to you always.

Amen

2. It's an adventure: **Who's coming? (Pray for 5)**

Assembly title: Who is coming too?

Bible reference: Isaiah 43:1

Resources: A named cup or pen or some other personalised items

Teaching Point: God knows us all by name and we can pray for people by name.

Assembly outline:

1. When we get to know someone, one of the very first things we will ask them is 'what is your name?' Everyone has a name.
2. Does anyone have the same name as someone else here at school?
3. Show the personalised items to the children. See if there is anyone with the matching name and ask them to come and hold them up.
4. Does your name have a special meaning?
5. Do you know the story of how you came to be called the name you have?
6. Even if we have the same first name as another person we know, no two people are the same. We are all incredibly different.
7. The Bible says that God knows all of our names. Imagine that: so many people on the planet and yet God knows every name.
8. God does not just keep a list of names like a school register; he knows about every person and he cares for every single one.
9. Do you know how many people there are on our planet at this time? Over 7 billion, that is 7 thousand million and yet not a single one is forgotten.
10. Not everyone knows that God knows them by name and cares for them.
11. We can be used by God to help others to know this too, and to invite them on the adventure of life with God

Way to respond:

1. Choose up to five names of people you know that you would like to pray for to join you on the adventure of life with God.
2. Stretch out your hand and look at your fingers and thumb, so they each represent one of your five people.
3. As we pray in a moment, picture them in your mind and point to each one of your fingers to remind you that you can pray for them wherever you are and whatever you are doing, every time you look at your hand. (If you want, you could draw round your hand later and write their names or draw their faces on each finger and thumb so that you do not forget to pray for them each day.)
4. Life is an adventure to be lived. Let's keep praying for people we know to join in the adventure.

Song: 'Indescribable' (Chris Tomlin)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank you that you know every name and that you care about us all. I pray for the people that I have chosen (keep a quiet moment to whisper their names to God). Help them to know that you know them and you care for them just like you care about me. Help them to join in the adventure of life with you today and every day.

Amen

3. It's an adventure: **What shall we bring? (on the adventure)**

Assembly Title: What shall we bring?

Bible reference: 1 Tim 6: 7–8

Resources: Sticky notes ideally heart shaped.

Teaching point: On our adventure through life the most important thing we bring is ourselves; so take care and value who we are!

Assembly Outline:

1. Imagine there is an emergency and you had to leave your house in a hurry. What would you take with you?
2. Perhaps it would be a favourite toy, or a special gift that someone gave you, or a book you really like. We all have some things that are special to us.
3. When we travel through life the things we own change over time and they don't always last; but the most valuable thing we have is ourselves and the people around us: people.
4. Sometimes we forget how valuable we are. Sometimes people say unkind things to us and instead of their words bouncing off us they go deep inside and we remember them. Then we can start to believe them.
5. The way that God looks at us is very different from that. He values each one of us so much that he made sure that there were no copies of us in the entire universe. In fact in the Bible there is a verse that says: 'The Lord your God is with you....He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.' (Zeph 3:17)
6. God knows us and loves us and wants us to know that we are special and of great value. Whatever other people say about us and whatever we think of ourselves there is no one in the world like us.
7. Have a look at your thumb – you have a thumb print that no one else has in the world not even if you are an identical twin.
8. Sometimes we can be jealous of the things that other people have, or maybe even some of the things they are good at. God would remind us that we are not made to be like anyone else. Only you can bring yourself on the adventure of life and God delights in you daily.

Way to respond:

Sometimes people around us need encouragement to know that God delights in them. Take one of the sticky notes being passed around now and hold it in your hands. As the music plays take a moment to think about the delight that God has in us and all the people around us. Then take your sticky note and place it carefully on the back of the person sitting in front of you.

Song: 'Big Family of God' – Worship for Everyone (Nick and Becky Drake)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you that you made me to be me and not like anyone else. Please help me when I am tempted to wish I was like someone else or I feel jealous of what they have. Remind me that you sing over each one of us every day, and especially last thing at night as I go to bed, and when I get up in the mornings.

Amen.

4. It's an adventure: **Where are we going? (on the adventure)**

Assembly Title: **Where are we going on our adventure of life** – how will we know the way?

Bible reference: John 14:6

Resources: Series of road signs printed A4 or on a screen: no entry, no through road, one way etc.

Teaching point: We can find our way through the adventure of life by trusting Jesus, the son of God.

Assembly Outline:

1. Has anyone ever been on a car journey where the driver has got lost?
2. These days many of us have satnavs in cars that even tell us where to go: 'Turn left at the end of the road'; 'At the roundabout get into the right hand lane'. We also rely on road signs to tell us which way to go.
3. How well do you know your road signs? What does this one mean? (No entry etc.)
4. If we are setting out to a new place, most of us will want to know the way before we set off. We want to be sure we will end up in the right place.
5. Jesus' friends were just the same, they wanted to know where Jesus was going and how they could get there too
6. In answer to their question Jesus said something a bit strange.
7. He said, 'I am the way' – in other words, 'I am not giving you signs or a map or even a satnav. I am asking you to trust me.'
8. Jesus' friends found that tough. They didn't really understand at that moment what Jesus meant, but later they did.
9. Later, Jesus showed them that everything he had said about himself was true, and that he could be trusted.
10. He still invites us to follow his way: all of us. We can put our trust in Jesus and be sure that he will keep his promise.

Way to respond:

Hold your hands out in front of you, your left hand and your right hand, palm side down. Turn over your left hand and imagine God opening his hand of friendship to you. Now take your right hand and place it in the hand of welcome. In the Psalms – one of the books in the Old Testament which contains lots of prayers that Jesus used to pray to his father God – it says this: 'Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand'. Psalm 73:23. As you hold your hands together in front of you think for a moment about how you would like him to guide you on your way in the adventure of life.

Song: 'I am his child' – Worship for Everyone (Nick and Becky Drake)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, whenever I feel that I am lost or do not know the way to go in my life, please would you show me. Help me to put my trust in you and help other people I care about to trust in you too.

Amen

5. Pentecost Sunday: A full heart! (to continue the adventure)

Assembly Title: Going on with a full heart.

Bible reference: Acts 2: 1–4

Resources: A bag of red, orange and yellow balloons (not blown up). You will need one of each colour for the assembly and one for each class teacher as they leave the assembly room. Ask three teachers if they are willing to assist with the balloon blowing at the front.

Teaching point: God sends his holy spirit and fills our hearts with love to share with all the world.

Assembly Outline:

1. Who likes parties?
2. What do you need for a good party? Take questions from the floor: cake, music, friends, etc.
3. How do we know there is a party going on? Decorations – often balloons and streamers are used to show that this is the special place and it is a special day.
4. The church – the people who follow Jesus – have lots of party days; they are called festivals or feast days.
5. We have just celebrated Easter (Jesus is alive) then ascension (Jesus goes up to heaven to pray for us and all the world) and now we are celebrating a feast called Pentecost.
6. Pentecost – 50 days after Easter. The church celebrates this festival to remember that, just as Jesus promised his friends as they waited and prayed and looked up to God, something amazing would happen. A special gift would arrive. Not a gift like a birthday present, but the gift of the Holy Spirit.
7. This is what happened: the followers of Jesus were all gathered together in one place, and suddenly the gift of the Holy spirit arrived. Though they could not see him, they could see that he was there; because they saw what looked like flames of fire, though nothing was burning, and there was a sound like the wind, only nothing was blowing away. The hearts of the people were changed: suddenly they were filled with love for God and for each other.
8. God still wants his people to receive this gift, the gift of his Holy Spirit – himself right there with his people every day.
9. I have got some balloons with me today, only they are not much use as they are. They are flat at the moment. They need air inside them.
10. Sometimes our hearts can be a bit flat or empty, especially if some tough things have happened in our lives. One of the things that happens when the Holy Spirit comes, is that our hearts are filled with love and things begin to look different. We find that we become kinder, more generous, gentler, more caring perhaps than we were before: a bit more like Jesus. Sometimes other people notice this before we do.
11. The gift of the Holy Spirit is for all people all through the adventure of life. God is generous and he loves to give good gifts to all his children.

Way to respond:

Ask three teachers to help come to the front and each blow up a balloon (red, yellow and orange) representing the flames the crowd saw when the Holy Spirit came at the very first day of Pentecost. Today each class will have a balloon to take back to the classroom. Keep it there for the next few days to remind us that God still sends his Holy Spirit, who fills our hearts with his love, so that all the world may know his love too. Every time you see the balloon ask yourself a question: How is God asking me to show his love today?

Song: 'God is love' Worship for Everyone (Nick and Becky Drake)

Prayer: Lord Jesus please fill my heart with the fire of your love so that others may know your love too.

Amen