



Values for LifeSavers

A Collective Worship Resource for Primary Schools:

Wisdom

Values for LifeSavers

Collective worship materials for primary schools



Values for LifeSavers

Welcome to Values for LifeSavers, a set of collective worship materials for primary schools. We hope that you and your children will enjoy using the material which is designed to complement the LifeSavers Five Big Questions About Money, classroom resources.

How to use this resource...

Both the Five Big Questions About Money and Values for LifeSavers are based upon the same four core values: Wisdom, Generosity, Justice and Thankfulness. Within each value, a number of principles have been identified and these are at the heart of all the materials with which you will be working.

There are five acts of collective worship or assembly plans for each core value. The structure is always the same and follows the pattern below:



Whilst each act of collective worship offers new material, there is also an element of repetition, in order that children and staff may become familiar and comfortable with certain patterns of worship.

Brief **background notes** for leaders highlight the key learning focus for each act of collective worship and ensure that the underlying teaching is clear.

Each act of collective worship begins with a **Greeting**. We provide two options: one that will suit the context of a church school whilst the other may be more appropriate for community schools.

For the **Learning** section, schools are given a choice of material to use. They may select the drama sketch which can either be acted out with puppets* or by the children themselves, or the Bible stories which are retold by Bob Hartman. The characters Barney, Bella and Bob in the dramas are already well known to those schools using the Roots and Fruits worship material published by Imaginor**. Bob Hartman's work is internationally acclaimed and very familiar in many schools. Both options provide a lively and often humorous way of interpreting the theme.

The **Reflecting** section gives children an opportunity to respond to the drama sketch or story, with open questions to encourage them to relate these to their own lives. In some situations, it may be appropriate for children to reflect on these questions with each other in pairs; we have identified suitable opportunities with a **Talk Partners** logo:

The **Responding** and **Sending** sections bring the act of collective worship to a close with a prayer and blessing. Alternatively, leaders can use the '**Thought for the Day**' which may be more suitable for community schools.

Schools are best placed to decide how and when to use these 20 acts of collective worship. They are suitable for a variety of groupings including whole school, Key Stage or individual class worship. Some schools will choose to use one a week over a period of time, whilst others may use them in a 'block'. They could function as a 'launch' for exploring one of the five Big Questions or as a way of drawing together the teaching at the end of a particular unit of work.

Church schools are required to provide a distinctively Christian daily act of worship, whilst, in community schools, worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. We believe that these acts of worship can be used to fulfil both of these requirements. Above all, we hope that these materials will help you to provide enjoyable and meaningful acts of collective worship for all your pupils.

Shahne Vickery and Neville Norcross

*The puppets are produced by The Puppet Company who sell via PuppetsbyPost: www.puppetsbypost.com

**The characters Barney, Bella and Bob were created by Imaginor Ltd and feature in drama scripts in the worship resource Roots and Fruits ISBN 978-0-9573429-5-8 Copyright Imaginor Ltd 2014.



Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom I: Enough is enough!

Wisdom

1

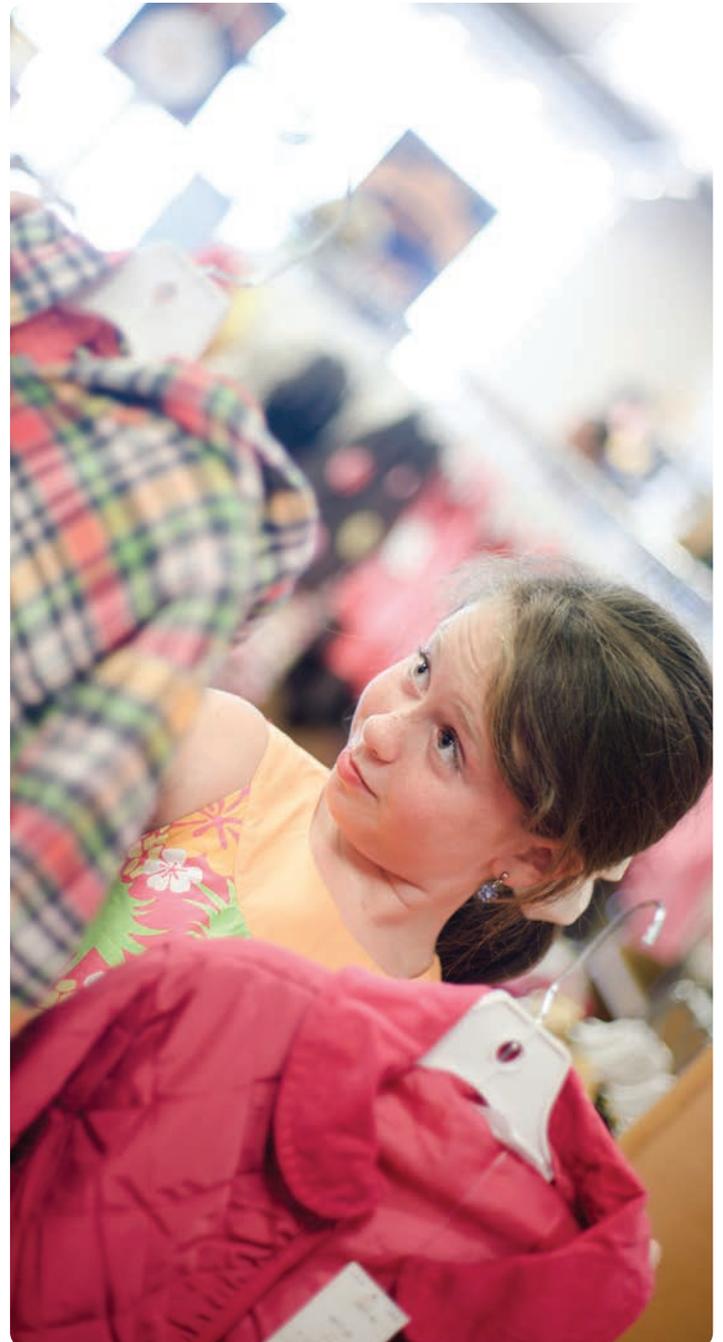
Enough is enough!

Worship Table

- Bible open at Luke 12.16-21 – the Parable of the Rich Fool.
- A cross and a candle.
- A jar of sweets which is overflowing.

Leader's Background Notes

In today's Bible story, Jesus is clearly warning his listeners against the dangers of accumulating more money and possessions than they are ever likely to need. Greed makes us neglect God and makes us blind to other people's needs.



Welcome



Light the candle

Greeting Option 1

On our Worship Table today we have the Bible, God's word, the cross of Jesus His Son; and the candle which we light to remind us of God's Holy Spirit. The Bible is open at Luke 12.16-21. We also have a jar of sweets.

Greeting Option 2

We have gathered together as a family to think about our value **Wisdom**.

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom I: Enough is enough!

Learning



Puppet Drama

Introduction:

Hold up jar overflowing with sweets.

There are lots of sweets in this jar - more than enough for one person to eat. Sometimes, we go on wanting more and more even if we already have enough.

Props:

Sweet jar which is overflowing because there are far too many sweets.

Children can perform the drama themselves. Alternatively, use puppets.



Barney: Wow Bella, where did you get all those sweets?

Bella: Well I already had a lot from my party but then my Auntie gave me some when we went into town and I won some more at Brownies last night!

Barney: What are you going to do with them all?

Bella: I've asked Mum to get me a bigger jar!

(Bob enters)

Bob: Woah! You've got more sweets than you could possibly eat, Bella. Can I have one?

Bella: I haven't got too many sweets, it's just that the jar's too small!

I'll give you one if they don't all fit in the new jar.

Barney: But Bella, it will take you months to eat all those sweets. You've got more than enough to share!

Bella: You can never have enough sweets! Anyway, who says I've got 'more than enough?'

Bob & Barney together:
We do! (They leave in disgust).

Reflecting



Bella's sweets all belonged to her, but was she right to want them all for herself? Discuss with your talk partner.

- How easy do you find it to share?
- Do you think rich people are better at sharing because they have more to go around?
- Or do you think that poor people are better at sharing because they know what it's like to be in need?



Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom I: Enough is enough!

Learning

Alternatively, you may wish to use this story by Bob Hartman (Based on Luke 12. 13-21)



Introduction:

This story is about a man who was very rich, but instead of enjoying what he had, put his time and energy into planning how to get even more.



Break the class into two groups.

Jesus was teaching, one day, when a man in the crowd spoke up and said,

'Teacher, my brother has just received a large inheritance. Lots of money. Plots of land. Tell him to share it with me.'

'Hey, man!' Jesus replied, **(Have group one point a finger and say, 'Hey, man!')** 'that's not my job. Nobody made me a judge over disagreements between you and your brother.'

Then Jesus turned to the rest of the crowd and said,

'Watch out! **(Have group two point a finger and say, 'Watch out!')** Don't spend your time worrying and wishing you had what somebody else has. For your life isn't about the amount of stuff you own. There are more important things than that.'

Then he told them all a story.

'Once there was a rich man. He owned plots of land. He grew lots of crops. He made pots and pots of money.

"What am I going to do?" he wondered, one day. "I grow so many crops that I have no place to store them."

Then he snapped his fingers.

"I know!" he said. "I'll knock down my old barns and build bigger ones! I'll have plenty of space to store my grain and everything else I own. Then I'll put up my feet and say to myself, "Myself **(Have group one point to self and say, 'Myself!')** you have enough stuff to last you the rest of your life. So relax. Eat! Drink! Party!"

'The man thought he had it all sorted,' said Jesus. 'But then God spoke to him, "You foolish man! **(Have group two point a finger**

and say, 'You foolish man!'), God said. "Tonight you are going to die. And who will get all your stuff, then - the stuff you have spent your whole life gathering?"

'So don't be fooled," Jesus said to the crowd. 'In the end, it's not about the amount of stuff you own. It's about loving each other and doing all the things that God says make for a rich and beautiful life.'

Reflecting



Many people think that if you are rich, you must be happy. Having listened to this story, what do you think? Discuss with your talk partner.

- What is your idea of a 'beautiful life'?



Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom I: Enough is enough!

Responding



After each line of this prayer, you may wish to join in with the words, 'Lord, help us to think of others.'

Leader: When we are tempted to want more than we need,

All: Lord, help us to think of others.

Leader: When we care only about ourselves,

All: Lord, help us to think of others.

Leader: When we make decisions about our money and possessions,

All: Lord, help us to think of others.

Amen.

Sending



As we remember to make wise choices,

May God the Father guide us,

God the son befriend us,

And God the Holy Spirit support us.

Amen.

Thought for the Day...

'Success isn't about how much money you make; it's about the difference you make in people's lives.'

(Michelle Obama, lawyer and former First Lady of the United States)

Background: Michelle Obama was the first African-American First Lady of the United States (until November 2016) and has become a role model for women and a supporter of various initiatives to promote healthy living and educational opportunities for children. Her Reach Higher programme seeks to inspire young people to take charge of their future by completing their education beyond high school, regardless of background.

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 2: The secret of contentment

Wisdom

2

The secret of contentment

Worship Table

- Bible open at Philippians 4.11b - I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.
- A cross and a candle.
- Celebrity magazine on a stand.

Leader's Background Notes

The Bible reminds us that contentment is not to be found in having more 'stuff', or the trappings of celebrity culture. Christians believe that true contentment can only be found in their relationship with God.



Welcome



Light the candle

Greeting Option 1

On our Worship Table today we have the Bible, God's word, the cross of Jesus His Son; and the candle which we light to remind us of God's Holy Spirit.

The Bible is open at Philippians 4.11b - I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

We also have a celebrity magazine.

Greeting Option 2

We have gathered together as a family to think about our value **Wisdom**.

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 2: The secret of contentment

Learning



Puppet Drama

Introduction:

Ask for a volunteer with a loud, clear voice to read these words from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. Also have them on the screen.

'I have learnt' the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4.12b -13.

The title of our worship today is The secret of contentment. What do you think it means to 'be content?'

Some people think that having lots of money is the secret to contentment and happiness. **Hold up celebrity magazine.** I wonder what you think?

Let's hear what Barney, Bella and Bob have to say.

Props:

Celebrity magazine on a stand.

Children can perform the drama themselves. Alternatively, use puppets.



(Barney and Bella are looking at a celebrity magazine).

Bella: This one's got an Olympic-sized swimming pool and a sauna and a heated outdoor bubble pool. Wow, They must be really, really minted!

Barney: This one's got a full-sized football pitch in the garden and a training gym with 24 work-out machines!

Bob: What's that you're looking at?

Bella: It's my Mum's celeb mag. They've got a whole section on homes in Beverly Hills. Why do some people have it all and others like us have nothing?

Bob: Well I wouldn't say we have 'nothing'. We have a comfortable home, a good family and plenty to eat.

Bella: Compared to them (points to magazine) I've got nothing! I bet their kids get hundreds of pounds pocket money EVERY WEEK!

Barney: You never moan, Bob. Doesn't it make you green with envy to see all these celebs enjoying life with all their money.

Bob: How d'you know they're enjoying life?

Bella: They must be. They can have anything they want!

Bob: My Gran says, 'Money can't buy happiness'.

Barney: Bob might be right. Listen to this: (Barney reads from the magazine).

'Being rich is not the answer to everything. Sometimes I feel quite lonely and I honestly think I was happier before I made all my money. I had pretty much all I needed. Life was so much simpler in those days.'

That's one of the best basketball players in the whole world talking!

Bella: Hmm, There's a saying 'The best things in life are free'. Maybe there's some truth in that after all!

Reflecting



Bob's Gran says that 'Money can't buy happiness'. What do you think she means? Discuss with your talk partner.

- What do you think are the things in your life that bring contentment?
- How do you think St Paul was able to be content whatever his circumstances, whether he had very little or much?

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 2: The secret of contentment

Learning

Alternatively, you may wish to use this story by Bob Hartman ((Based on Acts 16. 22-34)



Introduction:

St Paul had to face some very difficult things in his life. Sometimes he didn't have enough to eat and at other times he had plenty. Some people loved to hear him telling them about Jesus; at other times he was put in prison and beaten up for doing this. St Paul said that God gave him strength to face anything and, whatever the circumstances of his life, he was content and happy. He knew that happiness did not depend on having lots of money, lots of clothes or lots of food.



Telling tips: Teach the two actions in the story to your whole group, then lead them in making those actions at the appropriate place in the story. You could ask for two volunteers to come forward and play Paul and Silas and demonstrate the actions.

Paul and Silas were in prison in a city called Philippi. **(Have everyone cross their arms at the wrist, as if in chains).** Their backs were sore from the beatings they had received. But they hadn't done anything wrong.

Their clothes were ripped and torn. But they hadn't done anything wrong.

Their feet were locked up in stocks. But they hadn't done anything wrong.

All because they had freed a slave girl from the power of an evil spirit - a spirit who gave her the ability to tell the future. And, when she had been freed, her masters - the men who had used her to make money for themselves - dragged them before a judge, and told lies about them, and got them thrown into jail.

Paul and Silas were in prison in a city called Philippi. **(Have everyone cross wrists again).** They should have been miserable or angry or sad or upset. They

should have been frustrated or worried or fearful or outraged. They should have been shouting or shaking their chains.

But do you know what they were doing, instead?

They were singing! Calm as you like.

That's right. Singing songs of praise to God. And they were praying, too.

And, in the middle of the night, the earth shook, and the prison doors opened, and their chains fell off, and they were free! **(Have everyone make the wrist chain motion again, then pull their wrists apart and raise their arms in the air).**

Now it was the jailor's turn to be worried and fearful and sad. The law said that if anyone escaped, the jailor would be put to death. So Paul and Silas stayed in the prison, and made sure that the other prisoners did as well. Then, they told the jailor all about Jesus, and he and his whole family decided to follow Jesus too.

So Paul and Silas were no longer in that prison in Philippi. But why had they been so calm?

Many years later, Paul wrote a letter to the church that he started in Philippi. And in it he said that he had learned to be content.

No matter how much stuff he had or what was going on his life he had learned to trust God. Perhaps that was why.

And perhaps that very jailor was in the church that received that letter. And, perhaps, when he heard those words, he smiled.

For he had seen it for himself, how two men with beaten backs and torn clothes and chained feet - two men in prison **(Have everyone take the wrist chained position)** - could be calm and content, just as if they were free. **(Have everyone pull their wrists apart and hold their arms in the air).**

Reflecting



Paul and Silas had learned to be content even though they had to put up with some really difficult situations.

- How would you have felt if you were beaten up and put into prison like Paul and Silas?
- How can we seek to be content, even when things are tough?

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 2: The secret of contentment

Responding



After each line of this prayer, you may wish to join in with the words, 'Lord, teach us contentment.'

Leader: When we want what others have,

All: Lord, teach us contentment.

Leader: When we forget to count our blessings,

All: Lord, teach us contentment.

Leader: When we complain rather than giving thanks,

All: Lord, teach us contentment.

Amen.

Sending



As we think about the way to true contentment,
May God the Father guide us,
God the Son befriend us,
And God the Holy Spirit support us.
Amen.

Thought for the Day...

'Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants.'

(Epictetus, Greek-speaking philosopher, AD 55-135)

Background: Born a slave, Epictetus obtained his freedom and then studied and taught philosophy in Rome before he was banished to Greece, where he founded his own school of philosophy. His teachings were written down and published by one of his pupils, Arrian. He lived a life of great simplicity with few possessions.

Values for LifeSavers
Wisdom 3: Multiplying money

Wisdom

3

Multiplying money

Worship Table

- Bible open at Matthew 25.14-28, the Parable of the Talents.
- A cross and a candle.
- A £10 note.

Leader's Background Notes

The talents referred to in this parable were a unit of currency, estimated to be worth thousands of pounds in today's money. The same word is now widely used to refer to the different skills and gifts God has given each of us. In the story, Jesus is encouraging us to make the most of all that has been given to us, in our service of God and one another. That includes our money and possessions, as well as our unique talents and abilities.



Welcome



Light the candle

Greeting Option 1

On our Worship Table today, we have the Bible, God's word, the cross of Jesus His Son; and the candle which we light to remind us of God's Holy Spirit. The Bible is open at Matthew 25.14-28. We also have a £10 note.

Greeting Option 2

We have gathered together as a family to think about our value **Wisdom**.

Learning



Puppet Drama

Introduction:

Barney has been trusted with £5. I wonder if Bella and Bob will help him to be wise in using it.

Children can perform the drama themselves. Alternatively, use puppets.



Barney: (Calls out) Bella, Bob! Come over here!

(Bella and Bob arrive)

Bob: What's up Barney?

Barney: I need your help!

Bella: What for?

Barney: You know your parents run their own business Bella?

Bella: Yes, we have a dairy business. We make cheese and yoghurt.

Bob: I know, the strawberry yoghurt is really yummy!

Barney: Well, my Dad has set me a Spring Challenge. He's given me £5 to invest. He calls it seed money. He wants to see if I can make it grow!

Bob: What do you mean 'grow'? Do you have to buy seeds?

Bella: No, of course not! You can start your own business! Use the £5 to buy stuff to make things, then you can sell them and see if you can make more money!

Bob: What could Barney make?

Bella: How about cakes? You could buy the ingredients like flour, eggs and icing sugar and then sell them at the Summer Fayre.

Bob: But Barney doesn't like baking, and he's not very good at it. If no one buys his cakes, then he could end up losing all of his money. Maybe he should just give the money back to his Dad.

Barney: No, my Dad wants me to put this money to good use. Maybe, I should grow some plants after all. I enjoy gardening and I could sell them at the Fayre. The plant stall is always very popular with the adults.

Bella: Great idea. And some of the money we make at the Fayre helps pay for new laptops for the school, so everyone benefits.

Bob: We could help you, it sounds fun. I'll bring a spade with me after school.

Bella: And I'll bring my Mum's gardening book. See you later...

Reflecting



Jesus once told a story about a rich man who left three of his servants in charge of his money (talents). The servants who had been given five and two talents respectively, used them well and were praised by their master. The servant who had been given one talent simply buried it in the ground and his master was not at all pleased with him.

- What do you think that story has in common with the Bob, Barney and Bella story we have just heard?

Jesus told this story to explain that everything we have, including our talents and abilities, should be used to make a difference to the lives of others.

- What could you do?

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 3: Multiplying money

Learning

Alternatively, you may wish to use this story by Bob Hartman (Based on Matthew 25. 14-30)



Introduction:

We are all different but we all have something to offer. This story is about how we make use of the things we have – our time, skills, money and possessions.



Telling tips: You could have everyone shout – ‘Loadsamoney’ and ‘Loadsamoneymore’. And, yes, I know that none of your students will remember the Harry Enfield routine (the younger teachers probably won’t either), but if you say it in a brash, funny way, they will, too.

Or, you could divide your group into two groups and have the first group shout ‘Loadsamoney’, and second shout ‘Loadsamoneymore’. And then have everyone do the ‘You’re fired!’ line together, at the end. That might be easier.

I would resist the temptation to choose individual students to play the three servants. The final student, unless s/he is very confident, is just going to feel bad.

Jesus talked a lot about the Kingdom of God. That was the phrase he used to describe how things will be when everything is the way God wants it to be in the world. He often used stories, called parables, to explain the Kingdom of God. This is one of those stories:

Once there was a very rich man. He decided to go on a long journey, so he called three of his servants and entrusted them with some of his money.

He gave five talents to the first servant. Now, a talent was equal to about twenty years’ wages for the average working person, so this was a LOT of money. A hundred years’ wages! **(Have everyone pretend they are carrying a big bag of money and shout ‘Loadsamoney!’).**

He gave two talents to the second servant, which was less, but still forty years’ wages **(Have everyone pretend they are carrying a big bag of money and shout ‘Loadsamoney!’).**

And he gave one talent to the third servant. Still a lot of money **(Have everyone pretend they are carrying**

a big bag of money and shout ‘Loadsamoney!’).

Then the rich man went away.

While he was gone, the first servant, the one with five talents, put it to good use. He traded with it, and invested in ethical businesses and, by the time he was finished, he had made five talents more **(Have everyone pretend they are carrying a big bag of money and shout “Loadsamoneymore!”).**

The second servant was just as successful. He took the two talents he had been given, put them to good use, and made two talents more **(Have everyone pretend they are carrying a big bag of money and shout “Loadsamoneymore!”).**

But the third servant, the man with one talent, didn’t put his talent to use, at all. He just dug a hole and buried his talent in the ground.

At last, the master returned, and asked his servants what they had done with his money.

‘I made five talents more with the money you gave me,’ said the first servant **(Have everyone pretend they are carrying a big bag of money and shout “Loadsamoneymore!”).**

‘Well done, you!’, replied the master. ‘You’re a good servant, somebody I can trust. So I will put you in charge of even more of my money!’

‘I have made two talents more with the money you gave me,’ said the second servant **(Have everyone pretend they are carrying a big bag of money and shout ‘Loadsamoneymore!’).**

‘And well done to you, too!’, said the master. ‘You are also a servant I can trust. So I will put you in charge of more of my money, too!’

But when it came time for the third servant to answer, he hung his head and muttered, ‘Master, I have heard that

you are a tough businessman. I didn’t want to make a mistake and lose your money, so I just dug a hole and buried it in the ground. Here’s your money back. At least it’s safe.’

The master was furious. ‘You wicked and lazy servant!’, he shouted. ‘If you thought I was so tough, then you could, at least, have put the money in the bank and I would have earned a little interest.’

Then he took the one talent from the third servant and gave it to the first servant to take care of.

And so the first servant and the second servant went in to the master’s house with him, to carry on serving him and managing his money.

But the third servant? The third servant got the sack - like a losing contestant on The Apprentice - and was sent away from his master’s house.

(If you like, you could have everyone shout, in their best Lord Sugar voice, ‘You’re fired!’).

Reflecting



In this story, Jesus warns his listeners not to be lazy and waste the things that have been given them.

Think about anything that you can offer to your friends, your family or your community.

- Are you making the most of what you have?
- If you don’t share your time, money or skills, what difference will that make to you and to those around you?

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 3: Multiplying money

Responding



After each line of this prayer, you may wish to join in with the words, 'Lord, help us to be wise.'

Leader: As we think about how we put our money to good use,

All: Lord, help us to be wise.

Leader: As we think about using our time to help others,

All: Lord, help us to be wise.

Leader: As we think about improving our skills,

All: Lord, help us to be wise.

Amen.

Sending



As we think about using our time, our skills and our money wisely,

May God the Father guide us,

God the Son befriend us,

And God the Holy Spirit support us.

Amen.

Thought for the Day...

'I was blessed with certain gifts and talents. I was given them to be the best person that I can be and to have a positive impact on other people.'

(Bryan Clay, US athlete, 1980-)

Background: After a troubled childhood, Bryan Clay went on to become one of the most decorated decathletes of all time, including winning the gold medal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In 2005, he founded the Bryan Clay Foundation to help young people build self-confidence and maximize their potential through an active, healthy lifestyle.

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 4: Be prepared!

Wisdom

4

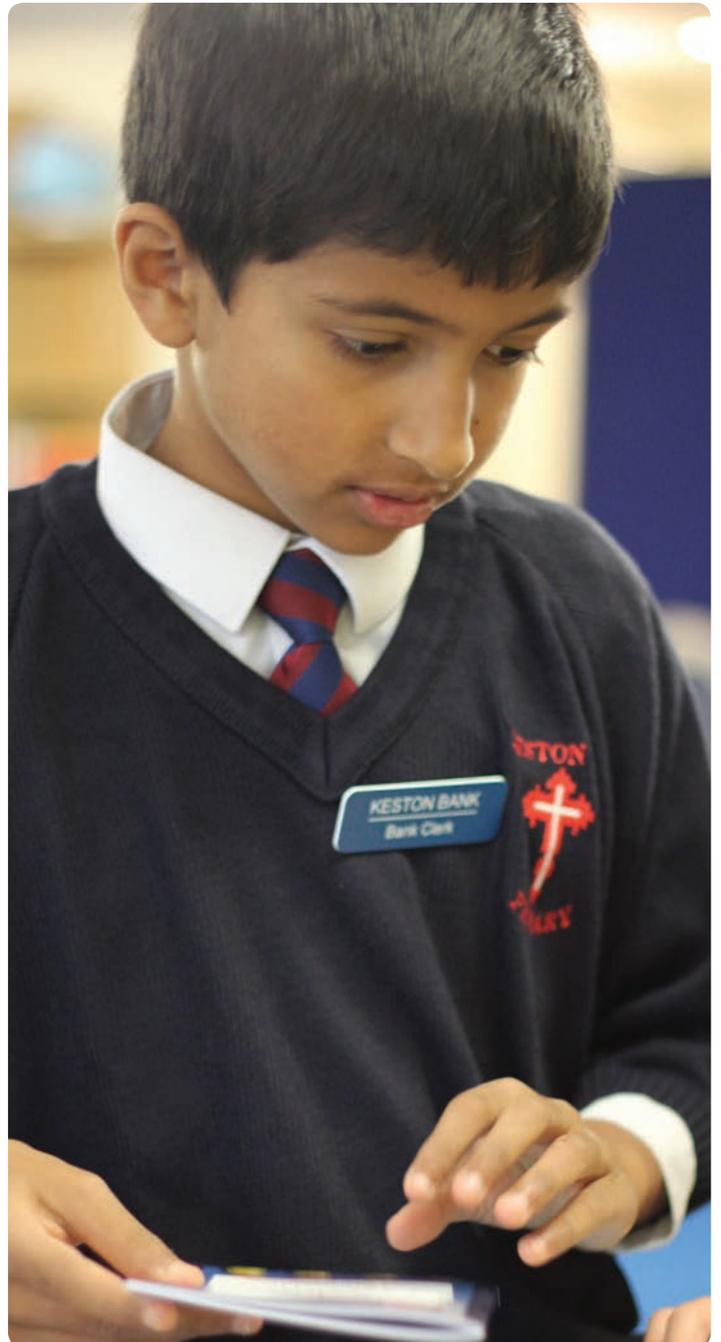
Be prepared!

Worship Table

- Bible open at Genesis Chapter 41, the story of Joseph and Pharaoh's Dreams.
- A cross and a candle.
- A tablet computer.

Leader's Background Notes

The story of Joseph from the Bible demonstrates his complete trust in God and the wisdom he showed in preparing for the future.



Welcome



Light the candle

Greeting Option 1

On our Worship Table today we have the Bible, God's word; the cross of Jesus His Son; and the candle which we light to remind us of God's Holy Spirit.

The Bible is open at Genesis Chapter 41.

We also have a tablet computer.

Greeting Option 2

We have gathered together as a family to think about our value **Wisdom**.

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 4: Be prepared!

Learning



Puppet Drama

Introduction:

Barney is about to learn a lesson about planning ahead in the good times.

Props:

Tablet computer.

Children can perform the drama themselves. Alternatively, use puppets.



(Barney and Bob are looking at Barney's tablet computer).

Barney: I'm going to get two of those footballs. That will mean if I lose one I'll have another as a standby.

Bob: Good idea, it's always good to be on the safe side!

Barney: Then I'll get three cricket balls. They are always going over next door's fence and sometimes they don't throw them back.

Bob: That's bad! (Points to the screen) Have you put them in the basket?

Barney: Yep, done!

Bob: What's the total so far?

Barney: £36.90.

Bob: What about tennis balls? We always need more of those.

Barney: Yes, quite right. How many shall I get?

(Enter Bella)

Bella: Wow! Someone's in the money!

Bob: Barney's Uncle from Australia has just gone back home and he gave him £50 for helping to make his stay so much fun!

Barney: Now I'm spending it all on this sports equipment website.

Bob: We're having the best time EVER!

Bella: Do you think it's a great idea to spend it all at once, Barney?

Barney: Absolutely! It's my money, I can do what I want with it!

Bella: How about the school trip to London next term. It's for a whole 5 days, remember? Your Mum said she could pay for the trip but you'd have to save up for spending money.

Barney: Hmm, that's true.

Bella: I'm already saving up in the school savings bank. I'm putting some of my pocket money in my account every week.

Bob: Me too. I've saved £8.50! I'm trying to get to £20.

Barney: (thoughtfully) I haven't got anything saved yet.

Bob: My Gran says, 'Always fix the roof when the sun is shining.'

Barney: What does that mean?

Bella: It means act wisely. Plan ahead, be prepared and don't wait until it rains before you try to fix a leaky roof!

(Barney frowns and looks again at the screen).

Barney: Maybe I don't need two footballs and I could ask my neighbour if I could go into her garden to look for some of my lost cricket balls. How do you start a savings account?

(As they go off, Barney and Bella explain how the school saving scheme works).

Reflecting



God wants us to act wisely with our money and possessions. In this way, we will be able to help others as well as ourselves.

- Can you think of a time when you have saved up for something either for yourself or for someone else?
- How did you feel while you were saving?
- How did you feel when you had reached your goal?

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 4: Be prepared!

Learning

Alternatively, you may wish to use this story by Bob Hartman (Based on Genesis 41. 1-49)



Introduction:

It is important that we make preparations for the future – for our exams, for holidays, for special celebrations and for how we spend our money. This story reminds us that Christians believe that our preparations are most effective when they fit in with God's plans.



Pharaoh - king of all Egypt - had a dream. A troubling, upsetting dream.

So he called together all the magicians and all the wise men of Egypt. But, try as they might, they could not tell him the meaning of his dream.

And then Pharaoh's cupbearer spoke up. He was the man responsible for tasting the king's wine, to make sure that it had not been poisoned.

'Your majesty,' he said. 'When I was in prison, two years ago, I met a young Hebrew man called Joseph. I had a dream, as did a baker, who was in prison with me. This Joseph correctly interpreted both our dreams. He told me that I would return to work for you. And he told the baker that he would be hanged. Both things happened, just as Joseph said. Perhaps he is the man to tell you the meaning of your dream.'

Pharaoh gave the word, and his servants pulled Joseph out of prison, and shaved him, and gave him a set of clean clothes and brought him before the king.

'I hear you can interpret dreams,' said Pharaoh.

'It's not me,' Joseph replied. 'It's God who shows me the meaning. Tell me your dream, your majesty.'

And so Pharaoh did:

'I was stood on the banks of the river Nile,' he said, 'when seven fat healthy cows came walking up out of the river and started munching on the grass.

Then seven more cows walked out of the river. But they weren't like the first cows. No, they were sickly and ugly and thinner than any cows I had ever seen.

And then, right before my eyes, the sickly cows gobbled up the healthy cows but they remained sickly and ugly and thin.

I woke up, but when I fell asleep again, I had another dream.

This time, I saw a stalk of wheat, with seven healthy heads of grain growing on it. But then another stalk of wheat grew up next to the first. It bore seven heads of grain, as well, but those heads were withered and thin and blighted with disease. And then, just like with the cows, the sickly grain gobbled up the healthy grain.

I have asked every one of my magicians, but none of them can tell me the meaning of these dreams.'

'Your majesty,' Joseph replied. 'the two dreams say the same thing. And, through them both, God is showing you what is about to happen.

The seven fat cows and the seven healthy ears of grain stand for seven years when the crops of Egypt will grow and grow and grow and you will have more than enough to eat.

The seven thin cows and the seven sickly ears of grain stand for the seven years to follow, when a famine will come upon your land and nothing will grow.

The two dreams mean that this will definitely happen. So you need to

plan ahead, your majesty. You must find a wise man to take charge of this. And you must order your people to store a fifth of what they grow in the good years, so they will have something to eat when the famine comes.'

Pharaoh was delighted to hear the meaning of his dream. And the wise man he chose to prepare for the famine was none other than Joseph, himself.

The dreams came true, of course, and when seven good years were followed by seven years of famine, the people of Egypt still had enough to eat.

And all because they followed God's plan - and planned ahead!

Reflecting



- What do you think would have happened if Joseph had not helped Pharaoh to prepare for the future?
- What are you preparing (getting ready) for? Have you asked for support or guidance from anyone else in making your preparations?
- Why is it important to think about our future spending plans – even if we don't always know what those costs are going to be?

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 4: Be prepared!

Responding



After each line of this prayer, you may wish to join in with the words, 'Lord, give us your wisdom.'

Leader: In our choices about the way we use money,

All: Lord, give us your wisdom.

Leader: In the help we offer to others,

All: Lord, give us your wisdom.

Leader: In our plans for the future,

All: Lord, give us your wisdom.

Amen.

Sending



In all the ways we use all that we have,
May God the Father guide us,
God the Son befriend us,
And God the Holy Spirit support us.
Amen.

Thought for the Day...

'If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!'

(Benjamin Franklin, scientist, writer and politician, (1706-1790))

Background: Benjamin Franklin was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, helping the US colonies to gain independence from the British. He was also a ground-breaking scientist and inventor, changing the world with his discoveries about electricity and bringing us the lightning rod and bi-focals, among other inventions.

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 5: What's it worth?

Wisdom

5

What's it worth?

Worship Table

- Bible open at Proverbs 8.11 - For wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.
- A cross and a candle.
- A ring set with one or more rubies, in a ring box.

Leader's Background Notes

This worship builds on the saying - 'knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing'. Christians believe that it is not possible to put a price on the things that are really important in this life, like friendship. Being wise is about more than being clever. Wise people know exactly what is lasting and valuable, as opposed to those things that are 'here today and gone tomorrow' - like fashionable clothes and fast cars.



Welcome



Light the candle

Greeting Option 1

On our Worship Table today we have the Bible, God's word; the cross of Jesus His Son; and the candle which we light to remind us of God's Holy Spirit.

The Bible is open at Proverbs 8.11 - For wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. We also have a ruby ring.

Greeting Option 2

We have gathered together as a family to think about our value **Wisdom**.

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 5: What's it worth?

Learning



Puppet Drama

Introduction:

Pick up the ring from the Worship Table, take it out of its box and hold it up.

Explain who it belongs to and how precious it is. (If the ring belongs to a staff member, ask them to talk about why the ring is special to them.) Have Proverbs 8.11 on the screen, perhaps with some fun illustrations.

Rubies are valuable jewels. The Book of Proverbs in the Bible is full of wise sayings. This is one of them. **Point to screen.**

Wisdom is more precious than rubies.

What do you think this proverb might mean?

Accept the children's suggestions.

Barney, Bella and Bob have been thinking about the different ways in which things can be valuable.

Props:

Tablet computer for Barney, medal wrapped in newspaper for Bella, a photo or a drawing of a ruby ring for Bob.

Children can perform the drama themselves. Alternatively, use puppets.



(Barney and Bella are already at a table with boxes in front of them).

Barney: I reckon my treasure will be the winner of Show and Tell.

Bella: I didn't think it was a competition. Anyway, what makes you think that?

Barney: Well, Mrs. Smart said 'Bring in your greatest treasure from home' and mine is really really valuable! What have you brought?

(Before Bella can answer Bob comes in holding his 'treasure').

Barney: Hi Bob, What's your treasure?

Bob: It's a ring my Gran gave my Mum on her 21st birthday. I've only got a photo of it because it's worth quite a lot and my Mum and Dad said I might lose it. She's enlarged the picture, so everyone can see it.

Bella: (looking at the picture) Wow, it's amazing!

Barney: I bet it's still not worth as much as mine though.

Bella: OK Barney, you are

obviously desperate to tell us, what's your treasure?

Barney: It's my new tablet. It's worth £650! Look how thin it is? They only came out at the start of the week. My Dad ordered it in advance, so I would be the first one in our class to have it!

Bob: Woah! That's AMAZING!! You lucky thing.

Barney: Yup! I think I'm going to win don't you? £650 is a lot of money!

Bob: Well, I don't think it's a competition but I guess it will take some beating! Bella what did you bring?

Bella: I brought this. (She carefully opens up some newspaper and proudly holds out a medal) It's my Great Grandad's medal from World War II.

Barney: It's not worth much money though is it? It's just an old piece of metal!

Bella: (Bella looks upset) It is worth a lot to me. It means that my Grandad was very brave.

(Bob puts his hand on Bella's shoulder as they start to walk off together).

It's brilliant Bella. I think that medal is a really special. It's a true treasure!

Bella Thanks Bob. It's definitely the most precious thing in our house anyway. I think I'm going to go and show it to Mrs. Smart.

(Barney follows on behind the others as they walk off).

Reflecting



Can you think of anything else that is precious to you and that cannot be bought with money? This could be a favourite toy or pet, or something completely priceless, like friends and family. Tell your talk partner.

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 5: What's it worth?

Learning

Alternatively, you may wish to use this story by Bob Hartman (Based on 1 Kings 3. 3-15)



Introduction:

When we say that something is valuable, we usually mean that it is worth a lot of money. However, there are many things in life that people value that can't be bought with money, like friendship, contentment and wisdom.



Telling tips: You can either have everyone do all the actions together, or you can split your group into three, and give one action to each group. Oh, and I know we use the 'Loadsamoney' action elsewhere, so if the children have already done it and enjoyed it, it will be good to revisit it. If they didn't like it, you can have them shout, 'I'm rich! I'm rich! I'm gloriously, fabulously rich!'

Solomon was the new king of Israel.

It was an important job.

It was a hard job.

So Solomon went to a place called Gibeon to ask God to help him with his new job.

While he was there, he had a dream. And in the dream, God appeared to him and said, 'What do you want from me? Ask, and it will be yours.'

Now, Solomon could have asked for riches. **(Have everybody hold out their arms like they are carrying a huge bag of cash and shout 'Loadsamoney!')** He could have asked for a long life. **(Have everyone say, in a really old voice 'I'm really, really old.' Then maybe cough, at the end).**

He could have asked for the honour that comes from a king's victory over his enemies. **(Have everyone pretend to wave a**

sword and roar 'Take that! And that! And that!' Trust me, the children will love this, but feel free to just have them shout 'yaaaah' or some other battle cry if you think the former is too violent).

But this is what Solomon said instead:

'When my father, David, was king, Lord, you showed him your love, time and time again. He was a good man, Lord, and you rewarded him by letting his son sit on his throne.

But I don't have his experience, Lord. I'm like a child, next to him. And I want to serve my people well. There are so many of them, and they're depending on me. So would you please give me the wisdom to know what's right and what's wrong, so I can lead them in the way they should go.'

God was pleased with Solomon's request.

'You could have asked for anything,' God said. 'Riches (Repeat riches action), a long life (Repeat long life action), or the honour that comes from victory over your enemies (Repeat victory action). But you have asked for something much, much better.

And so, I will give you wisdom, more than any who came before you or will come after you. And I

will also give you riches (Repeat action), and honour (Repeat action), and if you obey my commandments and remain faithful to me, I will give you a long life, too (Repeat action).

Then Solomon woke up from his dream, and went to his capital city, Jerusalem, and gave thanks to God for all he had promised.

Reflecting



☞ Solomon decided that the best and most valuable thing he could ask God for was wisdom.

- Why do you think Solomon thought that wisdom was such a valuable thing to have? Discuss with your talk partner.
- Think about your life and the things that you are really important to you.
- Are these things that you can buy with money?

Values for LifeSavers

Wisdom 5: What's it worth?

Responding



After each line of this prayer, you may wish to join in with the words, 'Lord, help us to value them.'

Leader: As we consider things that are beautiful, like a sunset or a starry sky,

All: Lord, help us to value them.

Leader: As we reflect on things that are precious, like our family and friends,

All: Lord, help us to value them.

Leader: As we marvel at things that are powerful, like the wind and the tides,

All: Lord, help us to value them.

Amen.

Sending



As we decide which are the really important and valuable things in life,

May God the Father guide us,

God the son befriend us,

And God the Holy Spirit support us.

Amen.

Thought for the Day...

'A wise person should have money in their head but not in their heart.'

(Jonathan Swift, Anglo-Irish writer, 1667-1745)

Background: Jonathan Swift is best known as the author of *Gulliver's Travels*, a fictional story about a man's adventures on Lilliput and other mythical islands. Swift was also a political commentator and a cleric, serving as Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, where he wrote his famous novel.

Values for LifeSavers

LifeSavers Core Values

Wisdom

Wisdom is a proper understanding of the consequences of our thoughts, words and actions, and an awareness of the true value of things.

Principle	Christian belief
Contentment is not found in accumulating more money and possessions.	Christians are warned that greed makes us forget about God and blinds us to other people's needs.
Foolishness – the opposite of wisdom – is putting our trust in the wrong things, like wealth and fame.	Christians believe that our needs are only truly satisfied through relationship with God.
A wise person knows that the really important things in life, like family and friends, cannot be bought with money.	Christians are encouraged to value what is eternal, as opposed to things that are here today and gone tomorrow.
Wise people make the most of what they have - their unique talents and abilities, as well as money and possessions.	Christians are encouraged to use their money and talents in service of God and one another.
Wise people prepare for the future and for the unexpected by, for example, saving and investing their money wisely.	Christians are encouraged to use their money wisely, so that they can help others as well as look after themselves.

LifeSavers

Helping children manage money wisely

LifeSavers supports schools in setting up savings clubs and helps children and their families learn about money. A partnership between the Archbishop of Canterbury's Just Finance Foundation and Young Enterprise, it is being extended to 120 primary schools over three years, with financial support from Virgin Money. Additional funding from the Government will be used to share the resources and learning with other schools through a LifeSavers website.



Young Enterprise is the UK's leading charity that empowers young people to harness their personal and business skills. We work directly with young people, their teachers and parents, businesses and influencers to build a successful and sustainable future for all young people and society at large.

JUST FINANCE FOUNDATION

The **Just Finance Foundation** was established by the Church of England and Church Urban Fund to develop and implement the Archbishop of Canterbury's vision of a fairer and more just financial system. We work with credit unions, churches, schools and other local organisations to strengthen the financial resilience of communities through financial education and improved access to responsible credit and saving and free debt advice services.



free expert advice for anyone teaching young people about money
email: ask@pfeg.org call: 0300 6660 127 tweet: @pfeg_org using #ASKpfeg

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