



THE BLACKBURN
DIOCESAN BOARD
OF EDUCATION



OFF THE

SHELF

RE IDEAS

#OFFTHESHELF

Hi Everyone,

These resources, activities and questions will hopefully make you think, inspire you to be creative and give you something different to do and learn while you are at home.

All the resources are linked to the 'Off the Shelf' picture posts and can be looked at in any order. So choose a picture that you think is interesting and then off you go!

Some of the activities are suitable for older children and others for younger children. However, you can choose which fits best for you. If you are particularly pleased with something you create or a question you answer and decide to post it on social media don't forget to include us [#OFFTHESHELF](#)

Enjoy, and I look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible.



[#OFFTHESHELF](#)

OFF THE

SHELF

RE IDEAS

A still life photograph featuring a variety of breads and wheat. In the center is a large, round, dark brown loaf. To its left is a smaller, round loaf with a lighter crust. In the foreground, several slices of bread are arranged, showing a porous, golden-brown interior. To the right, a small, round loaf is partially visible. A bundle of wheat stalks with golden heads is positioned in the middle ground. The background is softly blurred, showing more bread and a wooden surface. The overall lighting is warm and natural.

#OFFTHESHELF

What does this remind you about something Jesus said, a Bible story or your faith?

Post your thoughts below in the comment section

Key Questions:

What does this bread remind you of?

Imagine you can smell it, mmmm.....

Do you enjoy eating bread? I wonder what kind of bread is your favourite?

Many people eat bread everyday and think bread is very important. I wonder why?

How many of the well known stories in the Bible mention bread? Make a list using a children's Bible or Google to help you.

Story:

Choose to read **either** the story of Elijah and the Ravens from the Old Testament (1 Kings 17:1-6) **or** Jesus feeding 5000 people from the New Testament (John 6). Bread is an important feature in both these stories. Draw a picture of what you think is the most important part of whichever story you read. Then explain your picture to an adult or write the explanation on the back of your picture.

Imagine the story you read as a comic strip. Create and write a few of the thought and speech bubbles that may be included in the comic strip. In both stories there is a miracle. What is a miracle? What is miraculous about what happens in these stories? Finish this sentence 'A miracle is when.....'.

Think about.....

Jesus describes himself as 'the bread of life'. What does he mean by this?

What was your answer to the question about why many people think bread is important? Is there a link? Bread feeds, nourishes, gives life, it is a basic food in our cupboards. In what ways can Jesus be the 'bread of life'?

Read Jesus' words at the Last Supper (Luke 22:19). What does he say about the bread? Finish this sentence 'Christians believe that Jesus is like bread because.....'.

Making your response

Who or what is your 'bread of life'? Who or what nourishes you and helps you grow? Use your ideas to create an acrostic poem using the word BREAD. This could be quite tricky so ask an adult to help you. Remember to write the word BREAD vertically down the side of your page and then think of a word or a sentence that begins with each of the letters.

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Key Questions:

I wonder if you have ever stood next to fishing boats in a harbour? What could you hear? Smell? See?

Do you always do what you are asked to do?

Is obedience important? Why? When? Why not?

Story:

Choose to read **either** the story of Jonah from the Old Testament, he has his own book in the Bible, **or** read the story of Jesus calling his disciples in the New Testament (Mark 1: 16-20 and Luke 5:1-11).

Jonah jumped in a boat and the disciples jumped off their boats. I wonder what Jonah said to God while he was in the stomach of the big fish?

Draw the shape of a big fish and write Jonah's prayer inside.

What emojis would Jesus' disciples have used in text messages sent home that night?

Have some creative fun by raiding the recycling in your house and build a boat. Ask your adult first. Then take photos of your creation and post it on social media. Remember to use **#OFFTHESHELF**

Think about.....



www.salvationarmy.org.uk.

Ask an adult to help you find this web site.

The members of this church have heard God's call and joined the 'army'. However they are not soldiers who fight wars, have a look at what they do. Draw a picture of what you think a member of the Salvation Army might carry in their bag. Talk to your adult about the picture.

The people in these stories were spoken to by God. I wonder if God still speaks to people all these years later? Watch Dave's story from Stable to the Tomb on YouTube <https://youtu.be/zmcoLCWKS3c> What questions would you like to ask Dave?

Making your response

Walk around your house and look out of the window. How many places, rooms, things or objects remind you of an instruction you have been asked to obey? For example "You need to be in bed by 7.30pm" or "Don't touch the sharp knives."

Reflect back on your answers to the Key Questions about obedience. Did the characters in the story you read obey or disobey? Why? Why not?

Who asks you to obey them? Why? When? Do you always do as they ask?

How do you decide who are the right people to obey?

Finish this sentence and write two more that begin in the same way.

"I obey _____ because....."



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Key Questions:

When you look at this picture what do you notice about the hands?
Who do you think the hands belong to?
I wonder if they are friends, or all members of the same family?
I wonder what their names are?
I wonder what message they are trying to send through this picture?

Story:

Choose to read **either** the story of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) **or** if you know that story really well then read Paul's first letter to the Corinthians chapter 13 (1 Corinthians 13:1-13). You will find both of these texts in the New Testament. If there are enough people in your house you could act out the story of the Good Samaritan. I wonder who you think is the most important person in the story?
If you read Paul's letter to the Corinthians use Biblegateway.com to look up the passage in The Message translation of the Bible. There you will find a list of what love is and isn't, written in a different way. Create a few more sentences of your own to add to the list, for example 'love always shares', love doesn't snatch'. Use that list to play a game of charades.

Think about.....

Many people could be described as living out the parable of the Good Samaritan or Paul's description of love, in their daily lives right now. Create a poster that shows the ways in which the many different Key Workers are being 'Good Samaritans' or showing love today.
At the end of the passage Jesus tells the man who asked the question to 'Go and do the same'. I wonder what he meant by that? The Jewish people did not like the Samaritans at all. Jesus was telling them they were wrong to behave in this way. Have a look at the picture post again. Do you think that Jesus would like this picture? Give some reasons why. Look back at your answers to the Key Questions.

Making your response

By yourself, or with other members of your household, make a heart shape with your hands. Take a photo and send it to people you love with a message.
Paul states that love is the greatest. Do you agree or disagree? Have a discussion with your adult and then finish one of these sentences.
I agree that love is the greatest because.....
I disagree, love is not the greatest, is, because



#OFFTHESHELF

What does this remind you about something Jesus said, a Bible story or your faith?

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Key Questions:

I wonder what you think this shepherd does all day in order to look after his sheep?

I wonder if he really does know every one of his sheep?

I wonder what he would do if one of them went missing?

Why?

Story:

Choose to read **either** Psalm 23 from the Old Testament **or** The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15:1-7) in the New Testament.

Create a picture that **either** illustrates Psalm 23, **or** the moment the shepherd finds his sheep in the parable.

Explain your picture to an adult.

Watch, and then write a script for, the Max 7 Lost Sheep video <https://youtu.be/tyWZeOlaRo4>

Listen to Stuart Townsend singing his interpretation of the 23rd Psalm <https://youtu.be/pN4tPkX0MG0>. Why does he say that he will trust in God alone? What has God done that makes the person who wrote the Psalm want to put their trust in God?

Think about.....

Play a game of hide and seek with a 'sheep'. Imagine you are a shepherd. Pretend that a piece of Lego or another small object is one of your sheep. Ask an adult to hide your 'sheep' in another room, your challenge is to find it. Play this game a few times. Remember to keep looking and not to give in. Is it easy to keep on searching?

Based on the evidence in the Bible passage you read, write a brief job description for a shepherd. Jesus describes himself as being the good shepherd. Would he fulfill your job description? Why?

Finish this sentence, 'Jesus would be a good shepherd because....'

Making your response

Who do you trust?

Who would come looking for you if you were lost? Why? Complete this sentence. The people I trust most are _____ because _____.

The Psalm mentions a table and an overflowing cup, the parable speaks of rejoicing and celebration. What causes you to have a celebration?

What do you enjoy best about celebrating? Make a plan for the celebration you will have when lockdown is over.

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Key Questions:

I wonder just how many different colours there are in the world?
I wonder why there are so many colours? Do we need them all?
What difference would it make if the world was without colour?
What is your favourite colour? Why?
I wonder, what colour is God?

Story:

In the book of the prophet Ezekiel in the Old Testament, God shows himself to Ezekiel in an incredible vision. Read Ezekiel 1:25-28. "Brightness everywhere! The way a rainbow springs out of the sky on a rainy day, that's what it was like. It turned out to be the Glory of God!" (The Message) Imagine that, Wow! The glory of God is dazzling colour.

Create your own collage of colour that reveals the glory of God as you imagine it. Explain your picture to an adult.

The first mention of a rainbow is in the book of Genesis at the end of the story of Noah, Genesis 9:13-16.

In the final book of the Bible there is another vision of a rainbow, Revelation 4:3. A shimmering rainbow encircling God's throne. Use Google and search for images of rainbows in nature (not cartoons). Choose six that you particularly like and use them to make a PowerPoint presentation. On each slide write a word that describes God.

Think about.....

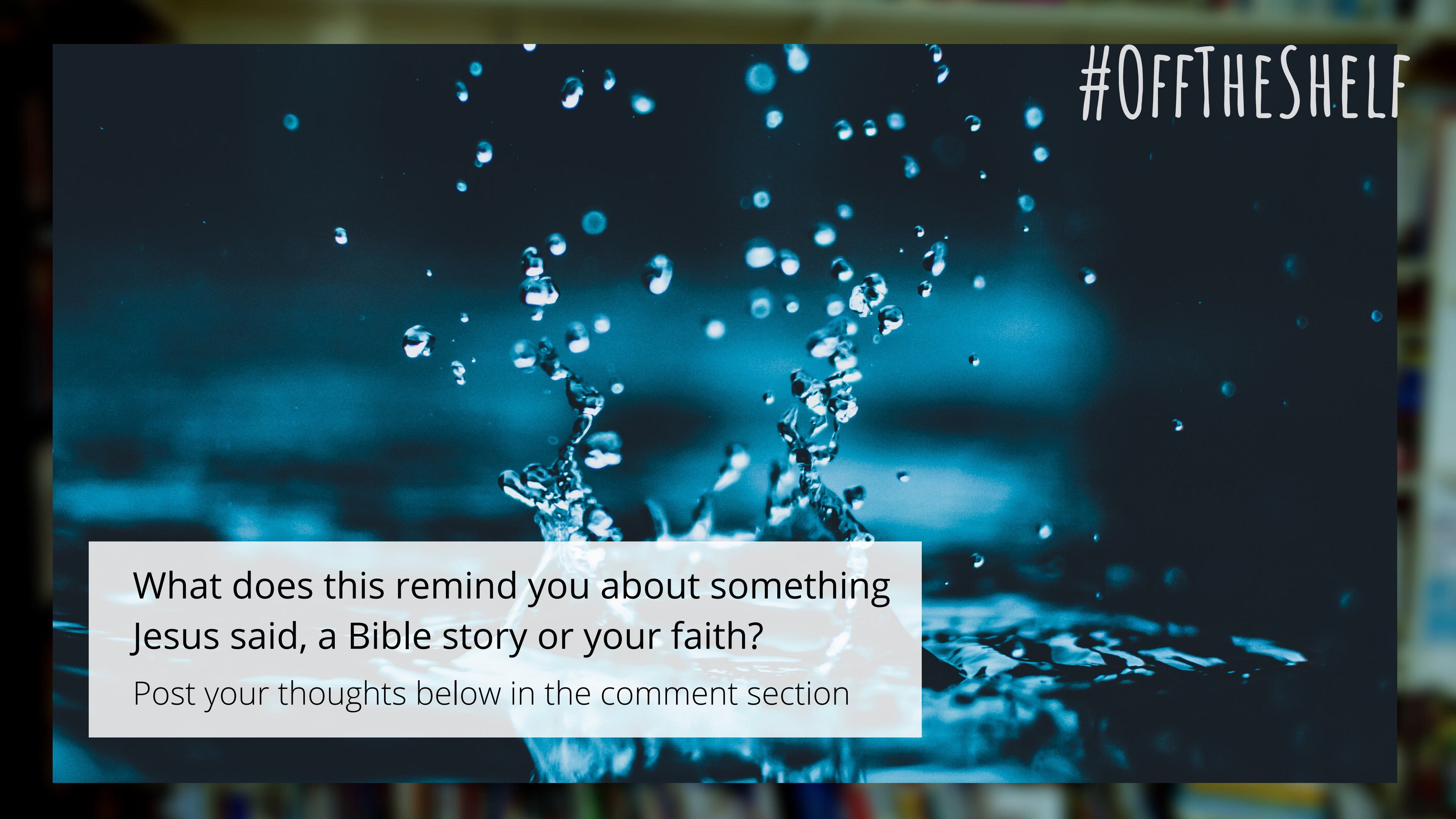
Over the last couple of weeks many people have created and put pictures of rainbows in their windows. These rainbows are saying thank you to the NHS and other key workers.

The rainbow is a symbol of hope. What are we hoping for at this time? Write a list and create a prayer.

It is the season of spring. The leaves on the trees are beginning to appear. Green shoots are coming up through the ground. Spring flowers are blooming and new life is everywhere. Look out of your window, look carefully. Can you see any signs of spring? Signs of hope that winter is over. What do these signs of spring teach us about God?

Making your response

The rainbow is a symbol of promise. There are seven colours in the rainbow. Colours are often associated with feelings or particular places, times and organisations, for example; red - anger, green - environmental issues, blue - the sky. List the colours and what each colour reminds you of. Then make your own promises, one for each colour, linked to the thoughts on your list. Write the promises in the shape of a rainbow, writing each promise in the colour they are linked to. "I promise to....."

A high-speed photograph of a water splash, creating numerous droplets and bubbles against a dark, blurred background. The water is captured in mid-air, with some droplets in sharp focus and others blurred, giving a sense of motion.

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Key Questions:

Do you sometimes know you are right about something, but wonder if adults will listen to you? Have you been brave enough to speak up? Have you ever been asked to do something that seemed strange, or was so easy that it seemed a strange thing to do, then when you did it, it made sense and was brilliant?

Story:

There are many many stories in the Bible involving water. The picture will have given you lots to talk about. Read about Naaman and the servant girl, found in 2 Kings 5:1-19 in the Old Testament. This story is less well known and perhaps new to many of you.

Draw 2 pictures of Naaman, one of him at the beginning of the story and one at the end. What happened? How did it happen? Why did it happen? I wonder what you think is the most important part of the story? Tell your adult what you think.

Imagine you are the servant girl working for Naaman's wife. How would you feel about going to give her a message from God? Draw and write a few of her thought bubbles. Finish this sentence "I think that the servant girl gave her mistress the message from God because"

At the end of the story Naaman declares that he is going to worship Elisha's God. What happened next? The Bible doesn't tell us any more of Naaman's story. Write a short paragraph and tell the story of what happened when Naaman returned home.

Think about.....

Naaman is the commander of the whole Syrian army. They had been fighting against God's people and captured many of them. So why did God help him? What does this story teach us about God? Can you think of anything Jesus said that gives us the same message? How does this story connect to the story of healing of the 10 lepers in Luke 17:11-19? Which of the characters in the story showed they had faith? Who did they have faith in? They had faith in God, but they couldn't see him. What else do we know exists but we cannot see it? Play this game together. Everyone needs a cotton wool ball or a tissue and a straw, or just use your breath. Have a race, who can blow the ball or tissue across the table first? We cannot see our breath but we know it is there.

Making your response

Play games that involve blindfolds, obstacles or challenges. The people who can see must give clear instructions to the one who cannot, to enable them to negotiate the obstacles or complete the challenge. Place a chair behind them and ask them to sit down. The blindfolded person needs to have faith in the others involved in the game.

Look up the story of Malala Yousafzai a young girl who was brave enough to speak up for what she believed to be right. (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/46865195>) Make a poster to tell her story.

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Key Questions:

When you look at this lion which of his characteristics spring to mind?
Make a list. In the Bible there are times when God is described as having the same characteristics as a lion. I wonder why? Have a look at your list, could some of the words you wrote down be used to describe God?
I wonder what other animals are used/could be used to describe God?
I wonder what your favourite animal is? How would you describe it? Could any of these words be used to describe God? Why? Why not?

Story:

Be a Bible detective (you may need an adult to help you). Look up the following Bible passages.

Deuteronomy 32:10-11

Amos 1:2

Revelation 5:5

Luke 13:34

Matthew 3:16-17

John 1:29-30

I wonder why those animals were chosen? Do you think they are good comparisons with God?

Create some of your own animal comparisons in words and pictures.

Finish these sentences.

'I think God might be like a _____ because_____.'

'I think God is like a _____ because_____.'

Think about.....

Jesus says that he is like a mother hen gathering her chicks. There are many films on YouTube showing a mother hen gathering and protecting her chicks such as <https://youtu.be/zcJB9BouCtw> Watch carefully, in what ways are we like the chicks and Jesus like the hen? 'Under his wing hen and chick crafts' can be found on Pinterest and Danielles place using a Google image search.

Using your imagination create some more imagery that helps us to understand the nature of God.

Instead of using animals use objects, places, food (check Psalm 119:103) or clothes. Take photographs and present your ideas on PowerPoint or a poster.

Making your response

Jesus was/is a leader and the animal metaphors show us ways we can be more like him and follow him. At the moment the leaders of our country are having a challenging time. Write a letter encouraging them. Using animal comparisons give them advice on how to behave.



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Key Questions:

I wonder if this is the end or the beginning?
Imagine that this is a picture of Jesus' actual tomb.
Was this picture taken on Good Friday or Easter Sunday? I wonder who took the photo? If they had posted the picture on FaceBook or Twitter what message would they have posted with it?

Story:

Read the Easter story to remind yourself of the events that took place at the tomb. Draw a picture of what you think happened 10 minutes before the picture was taken and another of what happened 10 minutes after. Explain your pictures to another member of your family. Recreate this photo using objects in your home such as the recycling, Lego, furniture, or bits and pieces from the garden. Take a photo of your 'empty tomb' and post it with a message on social media, don't forget to include #OFFTHESHELF
Rewrite the story as if you were a newspaper journalist, **or** film yourself telling the story as a news broadcast. Ask members of your family to pretend to be characters in the story and then you could interview them for your news broadcast.

Think about....

Listen to the song All Through History by Nick and Becky Drake <https://youtu.be/hQS2HHayr38> It is a brief version of God's big plan, His big story. Use the song to make your own timeline, add a few extra verses to the song. Continue the timeline after the song finishes, what happens next? This is your mini version of the big frieze many of you have in school.

Celebrating Jesus' resurrection at Easter is the most important event in the year for Christians. Use an image search to find some pictures of Christians across the world celebrating Easter. Find out how Orthodox Christians celebrate in Greece. Write down three interesting facts about Easter celebrations in Greece. How did Christians celebrate Easter during the coronavirus lockdown? Have a look on YouTube, news broadcasts and the Church of England web site. Celebrations were different, but Easter certainly wasn't cancelled. Why not? Would cancelling Easter have been possible? Why not? Many, many people usually go to Rome at Easter, find out why. I wonder what they did instead?

Making your response

Is there a time of celebration in your family that would never get cancelled? What is it? Why is it so important? How do you usually celebrate this occasion? Can you think of an alternative way to mark this special event? Discuss this with your family members.

Easter is the key event in Christianity. Make a list of other key events that have taken place in history that still have an effect today. Events that are always remembered. What do these events have in common?

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Key Questions:

I wonder if you have ever climbed a mountain? How did you feel standing at the bottom looking up to the top?

I wonder what you could see when you reached the top? Did you feel closer to God at the top of the mountain? Why? Why not? If you have not had the experience of climbing a mountain watch [Scotland's Mountains - Aerial Landscapes](https://youtu.be/q8kxKvSQ7MI)
<https://youtu.be/q8kxKvSQ7MI>

Story:

There are many important events in the Bible that take place on mountains. Read **either** the story of Moses meeting God in the burning bush in the Old Testament (Exodus 3-4) **or** Jesus ascension into heaven as told by Luke in the New Testament (Luke 24:50-53 and Acts 1:1-11)

Use a Google image search to find paintings of the story you read. Did any of the paintings look how you imagined the scene? Choose the one you like best and explain to an adult why you like that one.

Watch on YouTube either the clip of Moses and the burning bush from the 'Prince of Egypt' <https://youtu.be/6ds9y3lJGig> or Saddleback Kids version of Jesus ascension.

<https://youtu.be/UcFw8pLBSIo>

Think about.....

At the end of the clip from the Prince of Egypt Moses is explaining his experience and message from God to his wife. We cannot hear what he is saying. What do you think he is telling her? Act out this scene. Ask someone in your house to be Zipporah (Moses' wife). You are Moses, tell her your story. Find out what happens next.

Jesus leaves the disciples and goes back into heaven. Draw a line down the centre of a piece of A4 paper. On one side of the line write or draw what Jesus life had been like on earth, on the other side write or draw what you think his life is like in heaven. Whichever story you chose to read, think carefully about how important that event was. How would it make a difference today if we didn't know those events happened?

Making your response

Both Moses and the disciples were given messages from God to give to God's people. What do you think God's message to his people would be today? Write that message in the form of a text or tweet.

Moses and the disciples all became great leaders with incredible tasks to do. If you were to become a leader who or what would you like to lead? Can you think of an incredible task you would like to undertake. Make a note of the idea.

A landscape photograph showing a winding asphalt road through a vast, open field. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and the landscape. A large, leafy tree stands on the right side of the road, and a small, simple building is visible in the distance. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

#OFFTHESELF

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Key Questions:

I wonder where this road might be? I wonder where this road would take us to and from? I wonder how many people have travelled this road? Do you have a favourite road that leads to a special place?

Story:

These two well known Bible stories take place on roads. Read **either** the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) **or** the story of Saul who becomes Paul (Acts 9), both in the New Testament.

Begin by encouraging everyone in your house to join you in acting out the story you have chosen to read.

On the Emmaus road the disciples were talking about everything that had happened (Luke 24:14-17). Then Jesus joins them. Write a list of 20 things they could have been talking about.

In the story of Saul/Paul his experience on the road completely transforms him. Draw two large heart shapes side by side, in one draw pictures of Paul before he met Jesus, in the other pictures of him after he met Jesus.

Think about.....

On the road to Emmaus Jesus reminds the men that what has happened is what was foretold by the prophets hundreds of years earlier, and he explains the scripture to them. This was God's rescue plan. We all need things explaining to us sometimes. Imagine you met someone who knew nothing about Jesus and the Easter story, how would you explain it? Make a film that you could use to help you explain the life of Jesus and what Christians believe about him.

After his transformation Paul travels many roads telling people about Jesus, and the church begins to grow. Just like the situation we are in today, they couldn't gather in large buildings, they worshipped at home or in small groups. What would you need to do to change your lounge into a worship space?

On a map find the following places visited by Paul; Jerusalem, Cyprus, Malta, Greece, Italy, Turkey and Crete.

Making your response

Make a road in your house or garden. Ask to borrow several pairs of shoes and place them along the road. Label the shoes with the Christian values you talk about in school. Now walk along the road and as you come to a shoe explain what that value is all about, with an example of how we can live out that value in our lives

Paul wrote many letters to the churches he had visited. In his letter to the church in Rome he tells them to love, be patient, live in harmony and many other ways to behave (Romans 12:9-18). Read carefully and rewrite Paul's instructions in our everyday language. You may need to use a dictionary to help give you ideas.



What does this remind you about something Jesus said, a Bible story or your faith?

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Key Questions:

I wonder what you think about when you look at these coins?

What could you buy? How much you could save? or What you could give?

I wonder if you think money is important? Why? Why not?

Does money become more or less valuable depending on how much you have got?

I wonder if money becomes more valuable if you haven't got much?

Story:

Read **either** the story of the Widows Coins (Luke 21:1-4) **or** the parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21) both in the New Testament.

Watch the story of the Widow on YouTube <https://youtu.be/ma-VgOhVLIE> Make your own shadow puppets and retell the story to members of your family. What do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to learn? I wonder why the widow gave everything? Draw a picture of what you think is the most important part of the story.

Watch the parable of the wealthy man on YouTube <https://youtu.be/syYixa4ZRPY> Make a comic strip of the story with a modern twist. Instead of a farmer, wheat and barns, you could use for example a businessman, factory owner or celebrity.

Think about.....

Think about your riches; for example your family, home, toys, schools etc. For each one of your riches make a coin rubbing using paper and wax crayons. How big is your pile of coins? Are you wealthier than you thought you were? Reflect back on your answers to the key questions.

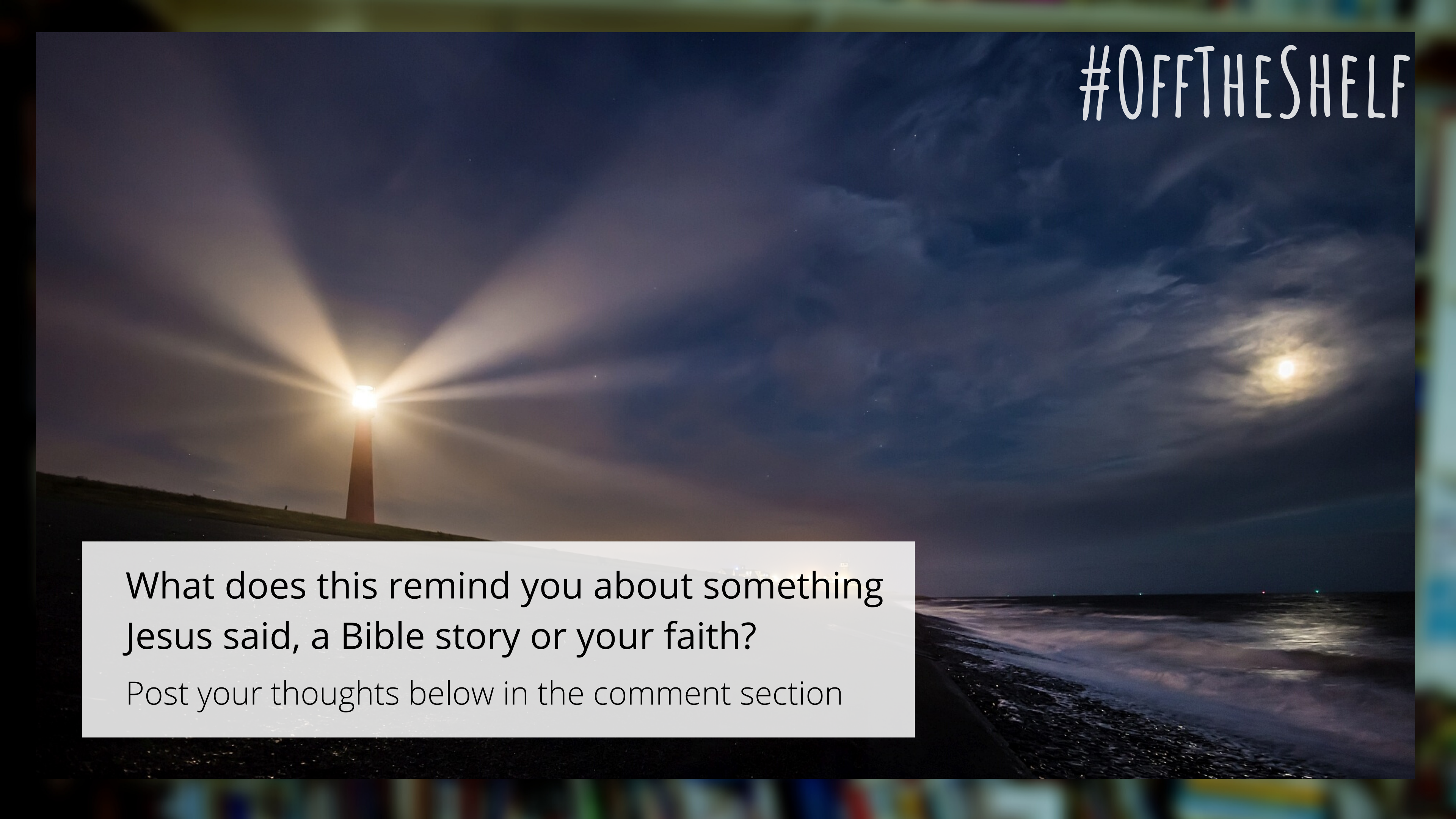
Jesus said that "a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth and not have a rich relationship with God". What do you think a Christian would describe as a 'rich relationship' with God? Create a poster that illustrates this message.

Making your response

Can you think of any stories that have featured in the news lately that could be linked to the message of the Bible story you read?

Have a look at the story of Captain Tom Moore.

Jesus said "Guard against all kinds of greed." I wonder what would guard our hearts against greed? Draw, or design and make, a face mask, gloves and apron that would guard against greed.



#OFFTHESHELF

What does this remind you about something Jesus said, a Bible story or your faith?

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Key Questions:

Read John 1:1-9. Who do you think John is writing about?

Who is the light in the darkness?

Read Matthew 5:14-16. Who is Jesus speaking to?

I wonder how Jesus can be the light?

I wonder how we can be a light?

Look carefully at the picture post. I wonder, how would you describe what the light is doing to the darkness?

How does the picture reflect the messages you read in the Bible passages?

Story:

Listen to and perhaps join in with the song My Lighthouse by Rend Collective <https://youtu.be/IFBZJGSgyVQ>

Many of you sing this song in school worship.

Who is the 'you' in the song? Who is the lighthouse?

"You are the peace in my troubled sea" How does Jesus bring peace? Read the story of Jesus calming the storm in Matthew 8:23-27.

"Your great love will lead me through" How great is Jesus love? Read the story of Jesus washing his disciples feet in John 13:1-17

Create a picture that illustrates the words of the song and shows how Jesus can be our 'Lighthouse'.

Think about.....

Jesus said "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds."

Listen and perhaps join in with the song Shine

<https://youtu.be/W2xc-w8Zcbo>. How is it possible to shine from the inside out?

Watch and listen to the story of Florence Nightingale from BBC History How did she shine? What darkness did her light overcome? Florence showed great courage and perseverance. Do you know anyone else with these strong Christian values? Write their story on a single sheet of paper. When you return to school this can become a page in a book and you can all share the stories you have written.

Making your response

Build a lighthouse. Ask permission and then raid the recycling!

Decorate your lighthouse with pictures and ideas of ways in which you and others can be a light in the darkness.

Take a photo of your lighthouse and send it to us (schools@blackburn.anglican.org) or post it on social media. Dont forget to use

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