

Journey 1

Becoming Wise: Jesus in the Temple

Preamble

This is the first of five assemblies on journeys.

The focus of this assembly is on the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem when he is twelve years old for the Passover celebrations. On the return journey his parents lose him. He is found three days later in the Temple.

The assembly explores the theme of becoming wise.

Preparation

Quiz to be prepared

Articles to be collected for rucksacks for spontaneous melodrama.

Possible game preparation for Guided Reflection.

Ken Coulter & Jen Robertson: March 2008.

Rationale	As the first of a series on journeys this assembly focuses on what we can learn on a journey and challenges older pupils to use the skills of listening, observing and thinking to learn more.
Title	Becoming Wise
Aims	To help the children consider that “growing up” is not just about growing physically, but we need to grow in wisdom too. Being wise is about knowing things and the meaning behind them; knowing the reason something is the way it is and knowing what is the right thing to do.
Stage	P 1 - 7
Objectives	1] At the end of this pupils will have experienced sense of meaningfulness and challenge. 2] At the end of this pupils will be able to state the facts of the story of Jesus’ journey when he was twelve.
Link with ACfE	Confident Individuals: secure values and beliefs.
Is this part of a series	First of Five
Introduction	Places quiz
Stimulus/ stimuli	Christian story from Luke’s gospel about the journey of Jesus when he was twelve. Luke 2:41-52
Guided Reflection	Activity and comment
Response & Possible Next Steps	Challenge to pupils to use their eyes and ears to learn as much and their minds to question as much as they can.
Evaluation (a)	Discussion with pupils
Evaluation (b)	RO team discussion
Evaluation (c)	Observation of pupils during the event

Introduction

Have you ever gone away from home? Ask for responses on what kinds of places the pupils went and what they saw there.

Quiz

Part 1 (ten questions on where would we find the following) (if PowerPoint slides or pictures could be produced this could add to the quiz.)

Where would we go to see?

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| • Edinburgh Castle | Edinburgh |
| • Tower bridge | London |
| • The Eiffel Tower | Paris France |
| • The White House | Washington DC, America |
| • Disney World | Orlando Florida |
| • Taj Mahal | Agra, India |

Where would you go to learn?

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • German | Germany |
| • Japanese | Japan |
| • How cold the coldest temperature on earth was | North Pole/ South Pole |
| • How it felt to be on the highest place on earth | Everest. |

Part 2

Where would you go to be wise? (Probably no answer)

If being wise means learning and thinking about things, what would you do to learn to be wise, what parts of your body would you use? Develop North Pole/ Everest questions.

The Story

The story will be told and acted out as a spontaneous melodrama. Invite three children out to be Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Prime some to be teachers who will be called out later on. Have three rucksacks and tents with a pile of clothing, blankets, cooking pans, and any ridiculous things you might want to take on a journey. Get the three to pack the items into the rucksacks and be ready to go on a journey.

Tell the story and encourage the children to act out what is happening.

It was time for Jesus and his Mum and Dad to go on holiday. This year Jesus was twelve years old. They went to the same place every year: the big city, Jerusalem. They went there to have a party with lots of their friends and family. It was called Passover and Jewish people still celebrate it today. In the Passover the Jewish people remember how many hundreds of years ago they had been slaves in the land of Egypt and God had set them free. If you have seen the film the Prince of Egypt you may remember the name of the man who led the people: Moses.

So they packed their bags and set off together. (Trio to walk round the hall once while story being told and then sit at front.) It was a long walk that took them three days. Each night they camped. As they got nearer to Jerusalem where the party was going to be they got more and more excited and forgot about being tired. They

arrived at the big city. This was much bigger and busier than they were used to. They saw wide streets and beautiful huge buildings with coloured tiles and painted walls. Lots of people elbowed their way through big wide streets. Animals pulling carts shoved each other and people and camels and donkeys pushed back. Priests and soldiers, businessmen and office workers walked the streets. Shopkeepers sold their last food before the celebrations. New buildings were being built and builders were still busy before the holiday with the sound of hammering. As darkness came, the smell of cooking hung in the air. The voices of many people in many different languages bounced back and echoed through the streets. It was almost a holiday and people felt happy and excited.

Jesus and his family met their friends. They ate food and told stories. At the special meal the question was asked as it was every year "Why is this night different from any other". The youngest child who was able to read always asked this question. Tonight it would be one of Jesus' younger brothers or sisters. In past years he had asked the questions. For him this night would be different. Maybe in a new way he understood the deep and long history behind the feast. Maybe as the oldest child he thought about the meaning behind the food.

In the morning it was time to go back home. They packed up their bags and set off (send Joseph and Mary back to their seats, and ask Jesus to sit at the side) there were so many people going home together that Jesus' Mum and Dad didn't notice that he wasn't with them. Mary thought he was with Joseph and Joseph thought he was with Mary. When everyone was getting ready to stop for the night someone said "Where's Jesus?" The question went round the camp "Where's Jesus?" he wasn't there. He wasn't hiding, he wasn't playing a game. He wasn't there. Maybe they should go back and look for him. They could do nothing that night. They couldn't leave their camp in case of wild animals or muggers. Mary and Joseph anxiously huddled together.

In the morning they hurried back to Jerusalem, where was he? They looked in the shops, they looked in friends houses, but they couldn't find him anywhere, Mary started to cry. For three whole days they couldn't find him. It was terrible and horrible and awful all rolled into one deep pain.

Call out the group of "teachers" to sit round Jesus.

At last they did find him in the temple which was like a very big church but with lots of other rooms in it. There he was chatting to all the religious leaders and teachers. A crowd of amazed people were listening too. These men thought a lot about God, they asked questions to find the answers and Jesus was answering their questions.

Mary and Joseph said "what are you doing, we've been looking for you all over the place". Jesus said, "But this is my Father's house, it's where I belong". Mary and Joseph didn't really understand what Jesus was talking about and they all went home together. Jesus stayed with his Mum and Dad and grew up. In the thinking time and the chatting time he had began to become wise; to understand the meaning behind the stories and what it meant to him.

This is first story of Jesus on a journey; he learned things when he was young that would help him when he grew up. Many years later he would return to Jerusalem for a special Passover meal with his friends, but that is another story for another day.

Guided reflection

GAME – a listening game and a watching game! Ask for 2 volunteers. Give them a choice – either to play a listening game or a watching game. (They could draw the options out of the hat to make it fairer.)

1. LISTENING – Blindfold the volunteer. Then choose 5 volunteers from that person's class. Don't let them speak or in anyway indicate who they are. Explain to the blindfolded volunteer that 5 people from their class are going to say what their favourite food is; their task is to guess who each person is.

2. WATCHING – Show a short clip from a DVD, explaining to this volunteer that they have to watch carefully because they will be asked some questions afterwards. Show the clip, and then ask 5 "observation" type questions.

Response and Possible Next Steps

What was it the 2 volunteers had to do? Watch and listen. The story that at the start of assembly finishes by saying that Jesus went home and he grew in "wisdom" What does wisdom mean? Is it just about knowing lots of things? No, it is about knowing the right thing to do. We played those 2 games because if we want to grow in wisdom we need to listen and watch what is going on around us. Being wise is about knowing things and the meaning behind them; knowing the reason something is the way it is and knowing what is the right thing to do. It means we have to think about what we do and why we do it. Take time to think about the week ahead and what "wise" things we can learn by watching, listening and thinking.