



# Assembly... Plus!

This pack is aimed at encouraging Year Six students to consider assembly themes in more depth. You can of course adapt the ideas below for any year group. We hope they will get your class thinking and talking about the topic.

All of our resources are available to download at: [www.splashschools.org.uk/resources](http://www.splashschools.org.uk/resources)

## Lesson objective: to understand what hope is and reflect on our own hopes.

Introduction:	<p>This assembly is all about hope. What does the word “hope” mean to you? Discuss in pairs or as a class and create some definitions. You might like to look up “hope” in a dictionary and find the definition, like Marigold did.</p> <p>Ask children to share times in their lives when they were hoping for something, or share some things they are hoping for now. How does hope help you to stay positive? That’s what we will look at today.</p>	
Main:	<p>Do some Literacy work with the word “hope”. Children could look for words with hope as the stem and find their definitions, or group them into positive and negative words. Our example list may help with this (see resource sheet). They could create their own words using hope as a stem, and/or write some poetry about hope.</p> <p>You could look together at the poem <b>“Hope” is the thing with feathers</b> by Emily Dickinson (see resource sheet). Read the poem together and discuss the meaning of the metaphor. The children could make an illustration for this poem or explain what it means to them. What other metaphors can you think of for hope? Listen to the song from the assembly again. Can you hear other metaphors in this song? Why do people use metaphors to describe hope?</p>	<p>In this assembly we look at the Easter story and the hope that Christians have in Jesus’s resurrection. This could be a good time to revise the story with your class by reading it to them, using drama or a video. They could look it up in Bibles and read through the book of Mark, chapters 14-16.</p> <p>In the assembly, we produced part of this story as a drama, set as a news story to interview some characters. How could you retell the story to someone else? The children could create their own drama sketches, a puppet sketch for younger children, a short film, a storyboard or write a retelling of the story in their own words or from a character’s point of view.</p> <p>For Christians, the Easter story is their biggest hope. They believe that Jesus is alive and they are hoping for the day that they can be with him.</p>
	<p>Extend the part of the assembly video where we ask you to pause and think about what you are hoping for.</p> <p>Have a class discussion about the words hopeful and hopeless, as well as optimistic and pessimistic. What is it like to spend time with someone who is hopeful/hopeless/optimistic/pessimistic? Where are you on your hope journey? Do you have hope and feel hopeful most of the time, or do you find it hard? Give children time to reflect on what they are hoping for. They could draw, write or think as described in the video, or you could try one of the prayer activities (see resource sheet).</p> <p>Children can reflect personally while doing these activities if they don’t want to pray.</p>	<p>Ask children to look up John 20, verses 24-29 in Bibles (or use resource sheet).</p> <p>We heard a bit about Thomas in the drama today. Read the passage in John 20 and imagine you were there. How would you have felt if you were Thomas and everyone else was telling you that they had seen Jesus? Sometimes it’s hard for us to believe too, like Thomas. What helps you to believe in Jesus? What do you find hard about it? Have some reflective time or discussions in pairs about this. You might wish to give the children some time to pray.</p> <p>What we hope in matters. We can help others to feel more hopeful if we pass on our hope. How could you do that this week?</p>
Plenary:	<p>Marigold was hoping for a solid chocolate Easter egg! Have you ever hoped for something that was very unlikely? Sometimes when we hope for something, we are disappointed, and that’s ok. It’s still good to hope for things in the future and fix our minds on positive things.</p> <p>Look at the PPT (see online resources folder) of inspirational quotes about hope. You could discuss each one as a class and what it means to them, or just read them quietly for some personal reflection. How can you stay hopeful this week, and pass your hope on to others?</p>	