

# Acts of Worship

## Virtue: Wisdom

### **Virtue to live by:**

I take time to think about what I must do and ask God and others about it.  
I help others to make the right choices.

### **Gathering together**

Focal point:

Green cloth, candle, crucifix, Bible opened at reading.

Picture of, or a toy owl.

### **Introduction:**

Show a picture of an owl. Lots of people say owls are very wise!

Ask the following questions:

Did they know that the positions of an owl's ears (one high, one low) lets it hear everything in three dimensions – up/down, left/right, and near/far?

Did you know that the eyes of an owl gather enough light to function well when no one else can see?

That owls don't chew their food but swallow it whole so they must make wise choices on what to put in their mouths?

Owls listen carefully, watch carefully, and make good choices! Today we are going to listen carefully and think about how we can make wise choices too.

### **Word:**

Ecclesiastics 4:11-19

Whoever loves wisdom, loves life. People who follow the way of wisdom will be filled with happiness. People who obey wisdom make the right choices and if they pay attention to wisdom, they will live safely.

*The Word of the Lord.*

### **Response to/reflection on the Word**

What does 'wisdom' mean? Is it just about being clever? Not really! It means thinking about our choices, learning from our past experiences and thinking about how we can get even better! It is about thinking about what is right and what is important. It is thinking about how God wants us to live our lives and putting that into practise.

### **Going forth**

How can we put our virtues into practise this week to make good choices?

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### **Ideas for music:**

I the Lord of sea and sky

You are my vision

Eagle's Wings

God knows everything

Fischy music: God knows everything

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Could have a collection of materials such as straw, twigs, stones/bricks.

### **Introduction:**

Briefly remind the children of the story of the Three Little Pigs. Discuss the different choices of materials to build their houses. (Show the children the materials, or pictures of them, from the focal point).

Which pig made the best choice? Why? Building our house out of stone/brick, with a good foundation makes it strong and last a long time. In today's reading, Jesus talks about a wise man building a house on rock, let's listen carefully to what He says.

### **Word:**

Matthew 7:24-27

"Everyone who hears these things I say and obeys them is like a wise man. The wise man built his house on rock. It rained hard and the water rose. The winds blew and hit that house. But the house did not fall, because the house was built on rock. But the person who hears the things I teach and does not obey them is like a foolish man. The foolish man built his house on sand. It rained hard, the water rose, and the winds blew and hit that house. And the house fell with a big crash."

### **Response to/reflection on the Word**

What is this reading telling us?

It is reminding us to think carefully about what Jesus taught us and about how we use His messages to live our lives in a better way. Jesus is the rock, our foundation upon which we can build our lives, which can help us make the right choices.

Play reflective music:

Do you listen to Jesus' teaching and follow His message?

Do you make sensible choices?

Are we building our house on rock (on Jesus' teachings)?

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### **Going forth**

Read the following signs of success for this virtue:

- *I take time to reflect on my actions*
- *I learn from my experiences*
- *I can decide, based on what I know, what is the best thing to do.*

Ask the children to really think about their actions and choices this week. (You might want to refer back to the previous virtue of Reflection)

### **Ideas for music:**

The wise man built his house upon the rock

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*NB: If possible, have a small child hiding under a large box near the front of the focal point. You'll need a large box and to choose someone who can keep really still for 10 minutes!*

### **Word:**

Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

### **Response to/reflection on the Word**

Hide a torch under a box (you will need to leave it on). What is under the box? Take the box off to reveal the torch and bright light.

Show the larger box. What do they think is under there? Show them, revealing the child who springs up, smiling!

Could they see the light under the small box? Could they see the child? No, they were hidden. Jesus is telling us in this reading that we are like a light, our good choices, our good deeds, the way we live our virtues are like lights shining for all to see. We should not hide under a box, but show everyone our light. Just as we follow Jesus' example and He lights the path for us to follow, we can show others, through our actions, how to follow Jesus too.

### **Going forth**

Remind the children of the signs of success:

- *I make the most of my gifts and talents*
- *I can help others make the right choices*

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How will you be a guiding light? Can they help others make the right choices this week?

### **Ideas for music:**

Christ be our light.