



KS 1 AND 2 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP 2017 LEGO BUILDERS

This outline for collective worship can be adapted to suit the age of the children present.

If it is your custom to use prayers in collective worship, you will find additional prayers for Education Sunday as an online resource, and children may be invited to join in with a prayer/prayers if they choose to do so.

TITLE:

Gathered in Jesus' name

THEME:

Core Value: Gathering in Jesus' name means agreeing and working together, caring, honouring and, above all, forgiving.

KEY STAGE RELEVANCE:

KS1 & KS2

INTRODUCTION:

Introduce theme: What toy shares a name with the Greek word meaning 'I read', or the Latin word meaning 'to gather or collect'?

Of course it is Lego, and just about everyone here will have played with Lego at some point in their lives – whether at home, or school...or wherever!

The word 'Lego' is a combination of two Danish words 'leg' and 'godt', literally meaning 'play good / well'. The brightly-coloured plastic building bricks may have millions of fans around the world but Lego had humble beginnings.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:

The idea was invented by Ole Kirk Christiansen, a carpenter from a small town (Billund) in Denmark. Years ago, he came up with the idea for Lego bricks in his workshop...and these bricks were to become one of the most loved toys of all time, enjoyed the world over by millions of children and quite a few adults as well. The company first started to make LEGO bricks in 1955,

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which comprised 28 different sets and eight toy vehicles. LEGO patented the bricks' 'stud-and-tube coupling system' in 1958. Lego continued to gain popularity, with more themed toy sets and building-block variations added all the time. The first LEGO sets were sold in 1961. A larger version of the blocks, DUPLO, was added in 1967, designed for younger children and toddlers. In 1977, LEGO introduced TECHNIC projects for older kids and teens. Today, even students at university use Lego bits to make robotic machines that are run by computer.

Perhaps what most parents won't admit is that you really don't have to be a child to enjoy playing with Lego!

You might want to children to build a Lego tower at this point.

MAIN CONTENT:

STORY CONTENT BASED ON THE STORY OF NEHEMIAH

Everyone sat around in silence early in the morning in the square by the gate where people collected their water, waiting for Nehemiah to stand up and speak. Eventually, this thin, rather elegant man stood up on top of the city wall above the Water Gate - the pride of Jerusalem.

"Gentlemen," Nehemiah started, "you see this wall I am standing on? When I first came to Jerusalem, there was no wall, no defences, and no city gates. Just rubble. Tonnes of rubble left where Nebuchadnezzar's army left them when they destroyed them over 70 years ago."

"I just wanted to say," continued Nehemiah, "well done! We did it." The people cheered.

"When I first came back to Jerusalem I was shocked at what I found. Every single wall was broken down. The gates of our city were off their hinges and burnt. Our city looked abandoned. And it was. But as you know, I believe God spoke to me and told me to ask Cyrus, King of Persia, for permission and materials to come here, (he smiled) back home, and to tell you to work together and rebuild our city walls and gates!"

Nehemiah's voice grew stronger. "And even though our enemies tried to stop us, we did it," he said looking around the crowd. "You did it. Our enemies did not want us to rebuild the walls and defend our city, but you - everyone here - have played a part. Some of you rebuilt walls, others carried stones, some cut fresh stones, and still others made new gates to replace the ones that Nebuchadnezzar burnt. You have all played your part and it was not easy. Some of you are not builders, some of you have never worked so hard before in your lives. Some of you are shopkeepers, but you became builders! Everyone has done their best - I could ask for no more."

Again, the crowd cheered. And they deserved the cheer too, for they had all worked hard. Sometimes they had even worked with weapons by their side in case they were attacked.

Nehemiah carried on. "But before we get carried away, we must remember why the walls were broken down in the first place. It was because we forgot God's ways. So I have asked Ezra, the priest, to read out God's laws today."

Ezra, a smaller, less slim man, came and stood beside Nehemiah. Behind him were three men, holding scrolls.

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As the first scroll was unrolled, all the people stood in silence. And as Ezra the priest began, he praised God and the people joined it. And as one, they bowed to the ground. As he stood on the wall above all the people, he read aloud the scriptures. It took all morning, until lunchtime and all the people listened without interrupting or even moving.

The people listened and at times were moved to tears – tears of shame, tears of hurt –because they realised that they had not done what they knew they should have done.

Ezra finally rolled up the last scroll, his voice a bit croaky because he had been speaking for a long time. The crowd were silent, ashamed of what the previous generation had done. No wonder their city had been invaded and destroyed!

Nehemiah walked across to Ezra and thanked him.

“This is a very special day. I don’t want any of you to be upset any more. We were wrong but we have now done things correctly. And God will be our strength and help us to please him in the future. So now let us eat the best food you have and sweet drinks. And share with those who do not have food, for you all shared in rebuilding the city walls. Now let’s rejoice together!”

Have you ever noticed that DUPLO Lego fits ordinary Lego and that every single Lego piece has the same shaped studs – they all fit? Different colours, shapes, different functions. Just like the people who rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem – they were not all builders but they all worked together.

It is amazing to think that they rebuilt the huge walls that went around Jerusalem.

I wonder, if we gathered together all the Lego bricks in school and those that you all have at home, how big a model we could build?

So what is the largest Lego model ever built? Well, in a part of England in 1980, a team of enthusiasts built a tower 30.22 m high with 100,000 bricks! But that seems small compared to the latest, tallest Lego tower, which is a huge 32.5 metres tall and comprising of nearly half a million bricks (450,000)! It was started on 5th September 2012 and was finished just four days later on 9th September!

(The largest Lego model is of a DHFS Ferry, which is transported on the back of a lorry for exhibitions. It contains over 1,000,000 bricks!)

Who has been to Legoland? Well if you go to Legoland – or even some of the big displays in toy shops – Lego seems to make a perfect world where everything fits together. In fact, Lego bits from any part of the world will fit with each other!

Now that should make us think. If Nehemiah could get all the people of Jerusalem to work together and rebuild the walls of the city, what could we do if we all worked together? Maybe build a better world?

I wonder what the best, biggest Lego model we could build today would be.

If everyone went home and brought their Lego bits in, and we raided every classroom, would it be a big model?

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Or if we all did our best to work together today, would this school be an even better place?

PRAYER/REFLECTION

(FROM MATTHEW 18.19-20)

Jesus taught his disciples a very important point about working and meeting together.

He said that when two or three people are gathered in His name, He will be with them – right in the middle.

But if we are to work and live together we need to make sure we ‘fit’ together, like Lego bricks. Gathering in Jesus’ name means agreeing and working together – caring, honouring and above all forgiving. Any other type of brick won’t fit with them, won’t look right, and won’t stay together.

The first thing we need to pray is that God will help us to fashion our own lives so that we can indeed fit with others.

The next thing we need to pray is to ask God to help us build for him – building together – because when we do build together, and we honour Him, he will be with us and help us.

Lord God, thank you that we are all like Lego parts. You made us all different sizes, colours, with different uses and yet like Lego, we can all fit together to make our world a better, safe place.

Amen

ADDITIONAL CONTENT IF REQUIRED:

ALTERNATIVE:

The people of the Middle East, many thousands of years ago, discovered this way of making bricks and buildings. They decided to build a massive city and in the middle of that city a huge tower. They thought that they could reach right up to the sky and hopefully to the front door of heaven! They also thought that by doing this, all the people of the world would think, “Wow, look at what they have achieved. They must be so clever.”

And the taller the building got, the more proud they became. The Bible story continues by telling that God decided to do something. He came to have a look. He didn’t laugh either – he was impressed...but worried.

“Now these people are united, all speaking the same language. This is only the beginning of what they will do. They will be able to do anything they want. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so that they will not be able to understand each other.”

And that’s what happened. God mixed up all the languages. Everyone was confused.

They started arguing. They fell out. How typical!

NOTE:

The world’s largest LEGO model was on display at Times Square in New York, May 23 2013.

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Made of 5,335,200 LEGO bricks and based on the X-wing starfighter that Luke Skywalker flies in the 'Star Wars' movies.

- The number of countries where Lego products are sold: 130.
- Number of Lego sets that are sold every minute: 420
- During Christmas, number of Lego sets sold every second: 28
- The year that Lego was founded by Ole Kirk Kristiansen: 1932
- The number of Lego men who have been produced since the figures were first introduced in 1978: 40 billion (They all had yellow faces until 2003, when a skin-coloured range was developed.)
- Number of Lego bricks you would need to build a column reaching to the moon: 40 billion
- Number of pieces of Lego which have been made since the company was founded: 485 billion
- The average number of Lego bricks owned by each person on Earth: 75
- Hours spent by children around the world playing with Lego each year: 5 billion
- Number of tyres made by Lego in 2010, making it the world's biggest tyre manufacturer: 381 million
- Number of Legoland theme parks – in Denmark, Germany, Windsor (UK) and California (USA): 4
- Lego's sales in 2010, a 32% increase on the previous year: £1.84bn

