

Community Collective Worship – Teacher Guidance

Gathering

As the children come in, play [Clapping Music](#) by Steve Reich.

What do the children notice about the way the two performers worked together? What would have happened if one of them had missed a beat, or if one had decided to clap a different rhythm?

How do they think the two managed to work together so well? (Good communication, looking at each other, active listening, teamwork, lots of practice....)

Our theme for collective worship is community, and today we are going to think about working in a team with other people. What do you think good teamwork looks like?

Engaging

Show these pictures of teamwork in the animal kingdom. *Use your judgement, depending on the age and ability of the children, to decide how much of this information to share. You may prefer to focus on one or two animals. Some of the children will probably be able to tell you lots more about how these animals work together.*

Slide 3 Geese flying in formation. Geese fly in a V shape to help them save energy and make them more efficient, apparently they can fly 70% further if they work together (up to 1 000 km a day.) As each goose flaps its wings, it creates airlift for the goose behind them, to make it easier for them to fly. When the goose at the front gets tired, another goose becomes the leader, so they take it in turns to lead the flock. The geese behind honk, to support and encourage the leader.

Slide 4 Wolves need to work as a team to survive the harsh winters – lone wolves find it much harder to survive. They rely on each other to hunt for food and keep warm at night. In a wolf pack, every wolf has a role to play. The strongest males – alpha males – lead the pack, others are responsible for finding food or protecting the pack. They communicate with each other by howling, but also through their body language, such as putting their tail between their legs or baring their teeth. Howls help them communicate over long distances, while they use barks and snaps when they're closer together.

Slide 5 Some scientists think that the sick and elderly wolves go at the front of the pack and set the pace for the others (the three wolves at the front of the picture). The next five are strong, young wolves, and the alpha wolf is at the back, where they can see everything that is happening. The important thing is that they work as a team and all the decisions they make are for the good of the whole pack.

Slide 6 Dolphins live together in groups called pods. They communicate with each other using a mix of whistles, clicks, vocal calls and slapping their tails. Every dolphin has its own unique whistle which the others recognise, so they can work together when they are hunting or playing and let each other know when there is danger nearby, such as a predator. Dolphins are really good at working together to find food and protect each other.

Slide 7 Honeybees can live in a hive of over 60 000 bees. They all have different jobs to do, to make the hive successful. The queen lays the eggs, the drones mate with the queen and the worker bees look after the hive, care for the young, protect the queen, and collect pollen, food and water. On a

warm day, half the bees will stay inside the hive and beat their wings to lower the temperature, while the others go out to collect pollen and nectar. The next day they will swap round so the others cool the hive. They depend on each other to get the job done, and trust that each bee will do their job properly.

When a bee finds a good source of nectar, it performs a waggle dance, using its tail to let the other bees know the direction of the flowers and how far away they are.

Slide 8 Meercats work together to protect each other while they search for food. Because they dig for food in the Kalahari Desert, they can't see if there is danger nearby, such as an eagle or a snake, so some of the meercats will be on guard duty and keep watch while the others dig. They keep communicating with the rest of the pack, scientists think that they can make up to 30 different sounds. If they need to defend themselves, they will work as a team, to fight off rival groups or predators such as jackals. They may stir up dust to provide cover, or keep together in a group to look larger than they really are. The adult meercats will train the younger ones, so that they learn how to hunt for food and defend the others.

What lessons have the children learned from looking at team work in the animal world? Ask the children to discuss this with a partner, or to choose one animal that they think shows good teamwork and to explain why.

Answers may include: the importance of good communication, everyone having a job to do and doing it responsibly, looking after members of the team who are weaker or feeling tired, putting the group before the individual, taking turns etc.

Responding

Slide 9 Show the African proverb, 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.' What do the children think this means?

Can they think of any examples of this in school? E.g. in a sports team, working together in class, working on a project such as the Eco Team organising a litter pick-up.

Slide 10 Jesus was the same, he didn't try to do everything himself, but chose a team of people to work with him, people like Peter and James and John. Sometimes they're called his disciples, which means followers (or learners). No one really knows what Jesus and his team looked like, but this is one artist's idea.

We'll be looking at this in more detail in our Key Stage or class worship.

Slide 11 Ask the children to sit quietly while you (or a child) read this prayer – and invite them to say amen at the end if they agree with it.

Dear God,
Thank you for all the examples of animals working together as a team.
Thank you that Jesus also worked in a team with his friends and disciples.
Please help us to be better at working together.
Help us to communicate clearly, to take turns,
And to look after each other.
Amen.

Slide 12 Sing '[Life is Always Better](#)' (the flourishing song). Ask the children how they think it links to the theme of today's worship.

Sending

Challenge the children to find opportunities this week when they can work together in a team with other people and to think about good communication, making sure everyone has a job to do and looking out for each other.

Slide 13 You may like to play the [Clapping Music](#) again as the children leave and ask them to think about how the two performers communicate with each other and work together as a team.