

Pilgrimage

Worship Material for Children and Young People 2018
For the whole United Reformed Church, produced by Pilots

Written by: Alan, Janet and Hannah Kendall
Edited by: Simon Peters
Graphics by: Gareth Jones
With thanks to: Sam Richards, John Filsak (and friends from the Holy Land Pilgrimage) and the Pilots Community



The
United
Reformed
Church



Introduction

Welcome to a year of Pilgrimage!

Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary,
Fatima, Portugal



Pilots are delighted to offer these materials for exploring worship with children and young people to the whole URC, aimed at supporting children and young people in organising, preparing and leading all-age/family worship.

The URC's children's and youth work theme for the year is Pilgrimage, with strong links to Walking the Way, the URC's focus on Missional Discipleship. We pray that the creative ideas within these materials will be a great resource for everyone working with children and young people across the Church.

Please use and adapt these materials in whatever way is helpful to resource your Sunday School groups, Messy Church, after school clubs, school assemblies, uniformed groups – and of course Pilots company if you are fortunate enough to have one in your church.

As this has been created by Pilots, we have used the terms Pilots and Pilot throughout to refer to children and young people. Please translate as appropriate to your local context.

Pilots will be praying for everyone seeking to journey with children and young people in discipleship and worship.

Blessings on our pilgrimage together,

Soo Webster
Pilots Management
Committee Convenor



Introduction

How to Use These Materials

These materials are offered as a gift to the whole United Reformed Church by Pilots and so any and all references to Pilots in these materials should be taken to include all other children and young people as well.

Each of us, whoever we are and whatever our background or status, are all travelling on different journeys at differing paces, with differing challenges, paths and destinations. Very often, we don't know where we're going or how to get there.

Throughout the sessions set out here, these materials will explore some of the physical journeys (pilgrimages) which people of faith often undertake as they reflect on their lives, the direction they're going in and the place of God in it all. These materials will explore a little of what scripture has to say about journeying and moving through life with Jesus. They will open up the idea that, as we learn to trust God more, we will each be able to reach our full potential and become part of building God's Realm on earth.

Most importantly, these materials are designed to help Pilots (and all children and young people) in the preparation of a worship service, which they are encouraged to organise and lead in their local church, making worship an enjoyable and relevant experience for everyone concerned!

Aims

These materials aim to:

- give Pilots the chance to explore the theme more deeply
- look at stories in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible
- help Pilots get to know each other and to know God better
- give everyone the chance to worship together and pray with and for each other

These materials contain resources which can be used:

- as part of your normal Pilots programme
- at a local weekend Pilots Camp
- as a theme for a Pilots Away Day
- whatever purpose is useful in your context

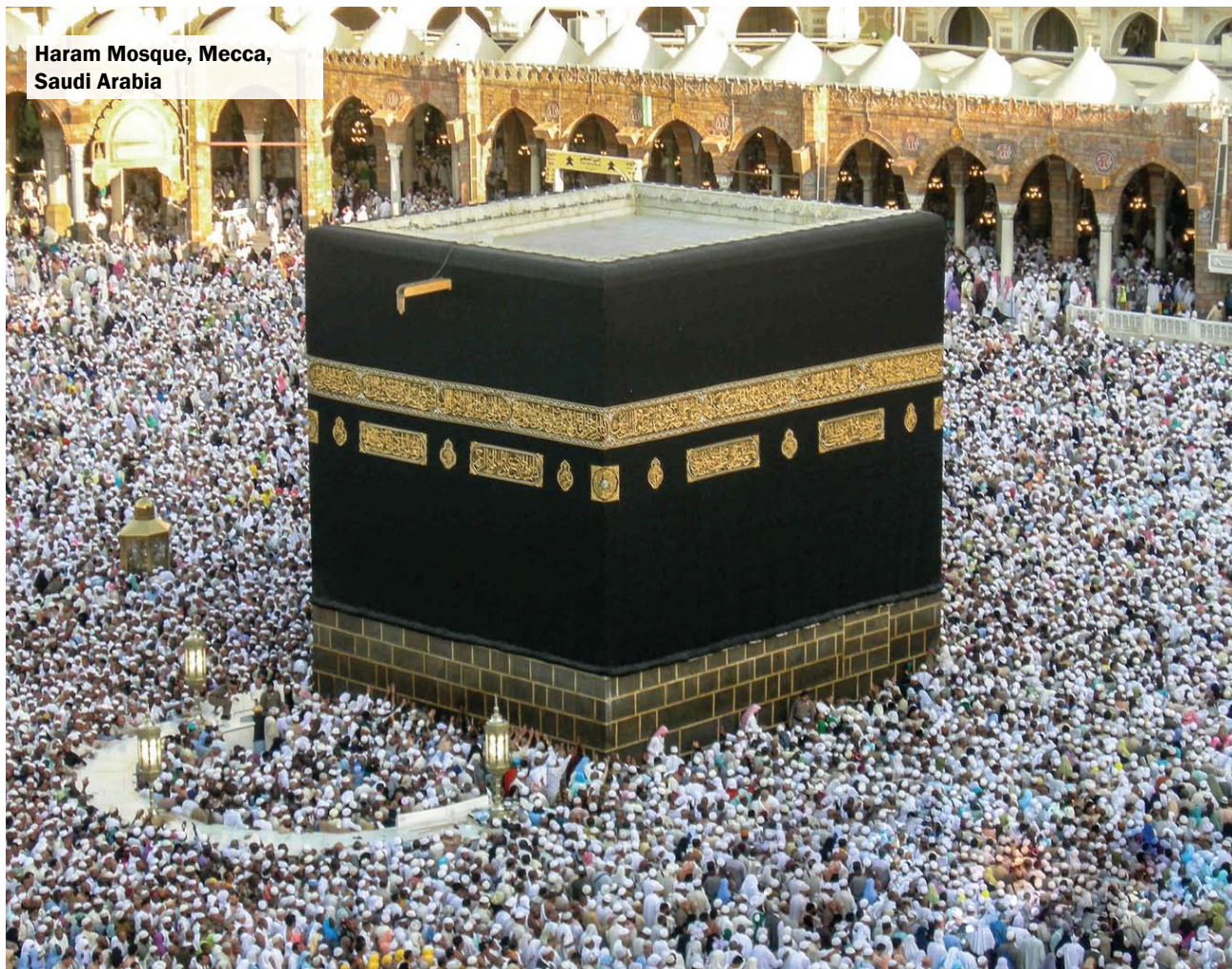
There is enough material within this resource for several sessions, each focusing on different aspects of the theme.

Please remember that these materials are here to offer suggestions and you should feel free to use your own ideas or re-shape the ones presented here. You may wish to re-organise the material in a way that better suits your Pilots. It is hoped that, through their understanding of the theme, Pilots and their leaders will feel empowered to lead others in worship.

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Section 1 – Pilgrimages in World Religions



Haram Mosque, Mecca,
Saudi Arabia

The practice of seeing life as a journey and using pilgrimages to help people reflect as they travel is central to many faiths and traditions around the globe. By understanding more about the pilgrimages of people from faiths and traditions around the planet, we can learn more about the values, people and places which are important to people and, together with our neighbours, develop a more loving and united world.

Amongst the most well-known pilgrimages is the Islamic pilgrimage, or Hajj, to Mecca, the birth place of the Prophet Muhammed (Peace Be Upon Him/PBUH). Mecca is the site where Muslims believe God delivered the first words the Qur'an, the most Holy text in the Islamic faith. Every Muslim is expected to make this pilgrimage at least once in their lives and over 15 million Muslims per year make the trip to Mecca. Many of them do this during a specific

time in the twelfth month of the Muslim calendar called Dhu al Hijjah.

Another famous pilgrimage, important for many Hindus, is the Char Dham, meaning 'four abodes'. This pilgrimage involves visiting four different places in different parts of India, which is no small task! Each of the sites, in the north, south, east and west of India, are believed to bring health, hope and enlightenment to those who travel to them. Each site now has a very impressive and different temple which pilgrims can visit.

Sikhs also have their own pilgrimage sites. The Sikh faith was founded by Guru Nanak, and so many Sikhs visit sites that are key to his story, the vast majority of which are in Pakistan. However, the most famous Sikh pilgrimage takes pilgrims on a journey to the Golden Temple in the Punjab region of India.

Section 1 – Pilgrimages in World Religions

Another very popular site is the city of Nankana Sahib, where Guru Nanak was born.

In Buddhism, sites relevant to the life of Siddhārtha Gautama, known more commonly as the Buddha, are seen as important places to visit. These are: Bodh Gaya, which is where the Buddha realised enlightenment; Lumbini, which is his birth place; Sarnath, which is where he delivered his first teaching; and Kusinara, which is the place where the Buddha died. These sites are all in northern India.

Each of these journeys takes pilgrims to places of inspiration and hope. These destinations are associated with compassionate, peaceful and uniting role models, teachers and prophets. What can Pilots find out about the people and places mentioned above? Who are the people who inspire them? Where are the places which remind them of what is most important to them? What journeys have they been on which have helped to shape who they are and what they believe?

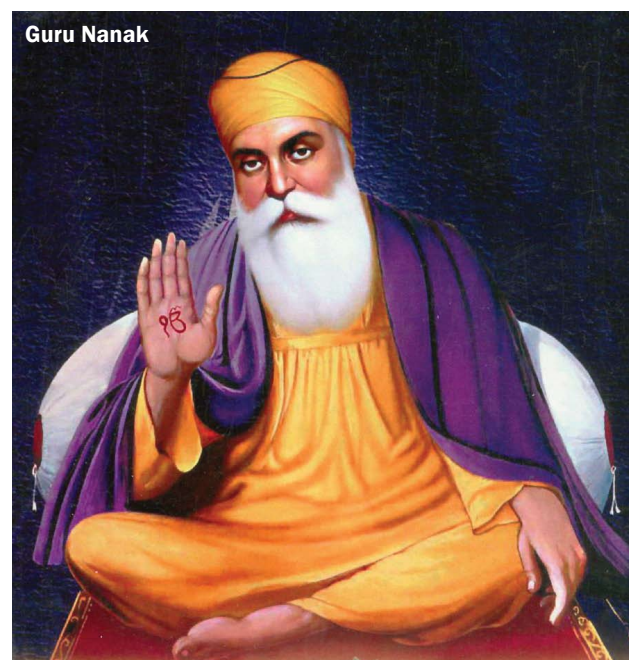
Games

Sentence Hunt – On separate pieces of paper, write down sentences about Pilgrimages in different faiths. Each sentence should have twelve words and, where possible, avoid repeating words. These might be things like ‘Muslims are expected to visit Mecca at least once in their lives’, ‘Hindus visit four temples in India, collectively known as the Char Dham.’, ‘Sikhs go to the Golden Temple, Amritsar founded by Guru Ram Das.’, or ‘Gautama Buddha has four significant sites of pilgrimage relating to his life.’ Repeat these sentences on different pieces of paper and cut the copied sentences into fragments, jumbling all the words together in a single pile the centre of the meeting space. Split the Pilots into teams, giving each team one of the full sentences. Challenge each team to find the words of their sentence from the pile in the centre of the meeting space. The team to find all the fragments of their sentence and

reconstruct it, wins. Although this is a race, perhaps Pilots could be given a small prize as they finish and encouraged to offer help those who have not yet completed the task.

New Perspectives – Pilgrimages are designed to help us see things from different angles, in a new light, changing the way we look at things and giving us renewed focus. Around the room, stick up photos of things from around your meeting space taken from strange angles, so that it isn't obvious what they are. Give each photo a number. Ask Pilots to move round the meeting space, identifying the items in the photos and writing down what they think they are. At the end go through the answers and see who guessed the most items correctly. Alternatively, use photos of some well-known landmarks or pilgrimage sites.

What's in the Box/Bag? – Experiencing familiar things in new ways through pilgrimage can offer us fresh insight and knowledge of things we thought we knew. Place a number of every day items (such as a watch, toothbrush, football or mobile phone) in boxes or cloth bags so that Pilots may feel the items but not see them. Challenge Pilots to guess what the items are by touch alone. Pilots could pass the items round or, alternatively, could move around stations with different items.



Section 1 – Pilgrimages in World Religions

Badrinath, India
(Char Dham)



Arts and Crafts

Char Dham Map – Invite Pilots to make a Char Dham map by decorating their own map of India and sticking pictures of the four temples in the right places on the map. Perhaps they could include other details and facts in their design.

Pilgrimage Scrap Book – Challenge Pilots to start a pilgrimage scrap book with photos, information, facts and statistics about famous pilgrimages. Pilots could start with the four pilgrimages covered in this session and prepare to add more as they continue their explorations into this theme.

Read the Word

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 together.

People of all religions believe that pilgrimages bring benefits to the pilgrim. They help us to step away from our usual, everyday lives to think about the things that really matter and allow those things to change and shape who we are, what we believe and how we move forward.

Different religions, traditions and people may have different people, places and rituals which are important to them, but the values, principles and aims underlying them are all the same: love for our Holy creator and sustainer; understanding and peace in all nations and building a world where people can live out their full purpose.

An old story tells of six blind people encountering an elephant. The first touched its trunk and said that an elephant is like a palm tree. Another touched its side and said that an elephant is like a rough wall. Another felt its tail and said that an elephant is like a piece of rope. Each came into contact with a different part of the elephant and was convinced that their own explanation was correct. Not one of them was wrong. They were all experiencing just one part of the same elephant. Only together could they form a full picture of what they were encountering.

Section 1 – Pilgrimages in World Religions

When it comes to our own bodies, we might not understand how all the parts work and fit together, such as the heart, or the kidneys, or the hypothalamus. However, all of them, working together, keep us living and able to achieve great things.

As with our own bodies, God declares that there is only one body of Christ with many, different parts, all of which need each other, even when we don't understand how they fit in.

We must remember that just because someone sees something differently, it doesn't necessarily mean that they are wrong or that they don't have a role to play in the plans which God has for us.

Learning from the blind people in the story, we must work together with those around us, including those from faiths, cultures and traditions which are different to our own. We must share what God is doing in our lives and seeking to learn what God is doing in the lives of others, that we might build a fuller picture of God's will for our lives and this world.

What do Pilots think about this? How will they respond to the challenge to love their neighbours and recognise them as fellow children of God?

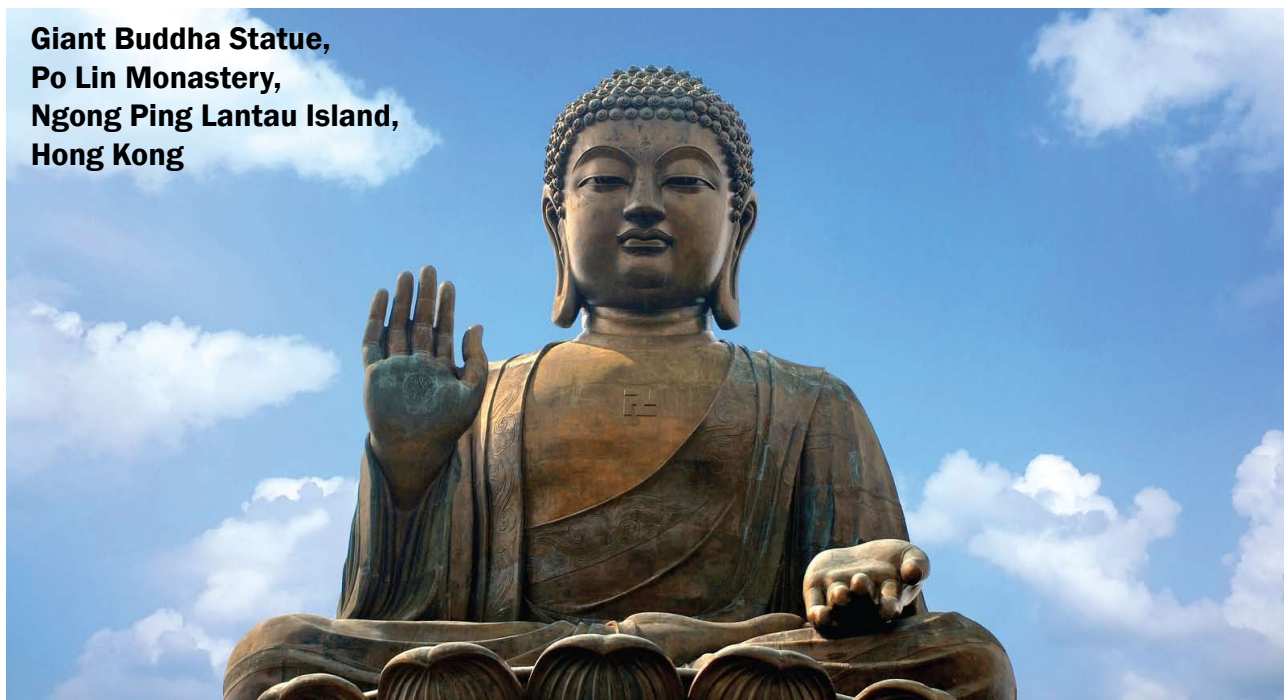
Let Us Pray

Loving God, Help us to respect the values and views of all our neighbours and to appreciate the importance of the different pilgrimages, symbols and stories which different faiths and traditions share with us. Help us to accept that we might not always see everything that there is to see and to keep an open mind about how the teachings and practices of others could help us to understand more of you and your plans for us. In your name, AMEN.

Prayer Chain – Ask Pilots to write their prayers for unity and peace in their community on strips of different coloured paper and stick these together in a circular chain. This chain could be displayed on a wall of the meeting space around a map of the world to show that our prayers and efforts for unity and peace cover all places and peoples.

Prayer Postcards – Encourage the Pilots to write prayers and draw pictures on postcards, asking God's blessing on people from different faith communities in the local area before sending these, along with an accompanying letter of greeting, to different places of worship. Sharing such goodwill could lead to new opportunities to learn share together.

**Giant Buddha Statue,
Po Lin Monastery,
Ngong Ping Lantau Island,
Hong Kong**



Section 2 – Christian Pilgrimages Around the Globe

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes,
Lourdes, France



In the first session, Pilots looked at the concept of pilgrimage as experienced in various faiths and traditions. There are also many pilgrimages around the world undertaken by Christians.

In any pilgrimage, the journey is the most important element, not the destination itself, for it is in dealing with the pressures, challenges and encounters of travelling that we are able to learn more about the world around us, our place in it and God's plan for our lives.

In order to get the most out of a pilgrimage, it is important to plan the journey well. We might want to think about who we will be journeying with, how we will travel, what we will want to take with us and what we are hoping to get out of the visit. It is also important, however, to fully open ourselves to the transformation which the journey might bring, for no matter how well we plan, things are likely to happen

which will make us rethink our path, our focus, our lives. Being a pilgrim gives us strength through our journey, but in order to gain that strength, we sometimes need to make ourselves vulnerable.

A collection of pilgrimage routes popular amongst Christians can be found along the Camino de Santiago. The Camino is nearly 500 miles in length and goes from St Jean-Pied-du-Port near Biarritz in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. There are many different routes that can be walked, all of which are very well trodden! Hundreds of thousands of people make these journeys every year. The tomb of St James, at the end of the journey, was discovered in 814 CE (Common Era – a neutral alternative to AD), and people have taken pilgrimages to it since then. Pilgrims travelling along the Camino traditionally wear a shell to indicate that they are a pilgrim and,

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therefore, reliant on the hospitality and support of others as they travel on their way.

Another popular pilgrimage site is Lourdes in France. It was here that on a grey February day more than 150 years ago, a 14-year-old girl named Bernadette Soubirous saw the first of 17 radiant visions of a woman standing on the rock above her, believed to be the Virgin Mary. Each year more than five million visitors from around the world come to Lourdes and stand before the same rock where Bernadette saw her mysterious visions, believing the site to be a source of health and restoration.

Rome is another important site, as it is the home of the Vatican City, the Holy See, where the Pope is based. This is most popular with Roman Catholic Christians, and of all the places that Christians can visit for inspiration and reflection in Rome, the most popular is undoubtedly the beautiful Basilica of St Peter. Saint Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, and the first Pope, is said to be buried here.

One region which many Christians visit is the Holy Land, which is the general term for the area where Jesus lived when he was on earth. Specifically, Bethlehem, the place of Jesus' birth, and Jerusalem, the place where Jesus died and rose again, are popular sites. The Sea of Galilee is also popular as visitors can easily imagine the many stories of Jesus and the disciples in their boats, fishing, or simply being used as a place Jesus could talk to the crowds where they could see him.

If Pilots could go anywhere in the world on a pilgrimage, where would they go? Encourage Pilots to think about places which would give them something to think about or allow them to do something to help make the world a better place.

“ Jayne: It was such an amazing experience. It truly brought the pages of the Bible to life and so much more! ”



Games

Musical Pilgrimages – Put up a picture of each of the four Christian Pilgrimages covered in this session in each corner of the meeting space. Play Christian music which Pilots can walk, dance or run around to. When the music stops, Pilots must pick a pilgrimage site to visit. At random, perhaps by taking names from a hat, a leader chooses one of the sites. Anyone who is at that site, wins a point. The Pilot with the highest score at the end, wins.

Story Race – Split the Pilots into teams of equal sizes, ideally with between six and eight Pilots per team. Set out lines of chairs for each team, making sure that the chairs of each team are parallel with the others and that there is a decent gap between the teams. Write or find a story about pilgrimage to read to the Pilots. A sample story can be found in the Additional Resources section of these materials. Assign different words from the story to a Pilot in each team. Whenever these words are read out in the story, the Pilot in each team with that word must run in a circle round their team and return to their seat as quickly (but safely) as possible. The Pilot to return to their seat first, wins a point. At the end of the story, the team with the most points, wins. This is a racing game, so think carefully when assigning teams about striking a good balance of ages, abilities, etc. in each team.

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San Domingo de Bonaval
Church, Santiago de
Compostela, Spain



“ Andrew: My pilgrimage to the Holy Land reinforced my faith. The sites that we visited and the churches we looked around were so significant that I now understand why the Holy Land is such a respected place. To tour with a group of like-minded people made it all so special. ”

Arts and Crafts

Shell Challenge – The sign of the shell is worn by pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago to show that they are on a special journey. Challenge the Pilots to make artwork featuring shells. Perhaps they could make a collage with shells, a drawing incorporating shells or make shell necklaces. The possibilities are endless. Each time they look at or use their creations, challenge Pilots to think about their own journey of life.

Checklist - If Pilots were going on a long pilgrimage, how would they prepare? What would they take with them? Would they plan stops along the way? Who would you like to journey with? Challenge Pilots to make a poster detailing their plans for the trip. Encourage them to include some of the things they'd hope to think about or discover on their pilgrimage. Perhaps these could be displayed around the meeting space to keep Pilots and others thinking about pilgrimage and how the concept might influence their own faith and spirituality.

Building – Using toy building bricks, or other materials depending on how creative Pilots are, challenge Pilots to make a 3D model of a famous pilgrimage site, perhaps a cathedral, temple, monument, or other significant item relating to pilgrimage. Perhaps Pilots could use plasticine for their model, or even make an edible version!

Read the Word

Read Luke 2: 41 to 49 together.

At the Passover, Jesus' parents went on an annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Jesus went too, when he was 12, and old enough. There were many people going from the same village, so they all travelled together. They stayed for a number of days before beginning the journey back home.

Like modern pilgrimages, this would have allowed people to interact with fellow pilgrims, think about the purpose of their trip and

Section 2 – Christian Pilgrimages Around the Globe

explore questions of faith and spirituality. At the end of the journey, the people would arrive in a place and engage in rituals and practices which would help them to connect with their heritage and core values, allowing them to return home with a renewed sense of identity and focus.

Whilst there, however, Jesus becomes caught up in the deliberations and workings of the temple, realising that God is calling him to do something special.

As we seek to follow Jesus and carry out God's will for our lives, people will not always understand what we're doing or why. They might try to discourage us or, in their ignorance, think that we are strange or different. We must always remember, especially in times of such difficulty, that God is always with us to guide and support us. We mustn't be afraid to ask the difficult questions or admit that we don't have all the answers. There would be no need to travel on a pilgrimage if we did!

Unsurprisingly though, despite the strength of Jesus' calling, his parents were not terribly pleased as he had wandered off from them and left them worrying about him for three days! Whatever God is doing in our lives or calling us to do in God's name, it's important for us to share it with the people who care for us and love us, for God has given friends and family to us as gifts to help us along the way. We must include them fully in our journey of life.



Church of the Holy Sepulchre,
Jerusalem, Israel

“

Edith: Going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land has brought the Bible vividly to life for me. I know for myself now that the places are real, not just story book places with lovely names. I can now properly picture in my mind the landscapes, the river Jordan, the wilderness, the olive groves, the great walled city of Jerusalem, the gently lapping Sea of Galilee, all around which Jesus walked, preached, lived, died and rose again. If the places are real, that can only add weight and authenticity to the words and actions of Jesus in those places.

I know now how the geography works, the distances between biblical sites, how beautiful or how wild and daunting they appear. I know the heat and cool of Israel, the smells, the good local food, the plants (the pomegranates, the mustard seeds, the Christ thorn), the sounds of crowded markets and the stillness of the lakeside, and it is very special to think that Jesus experienced these same sensations and scenes in the same landscape in his time.

It is a kind of shared experience with Jesus; we know his country a little now, we know a little more of how and where he lived, and so we feel we can know him a little better too, as a result of the pilgrimage.

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Section 2 – Christian Pilgrimages Around the Globe

Let us Pray

Saviour Jesus, We often don't have all the answers, and we don't know where to turn. Help us to remember that you are with us and that we only have to trust in you and you will help us through our difficult times, no matter how rough things get or uncertain the way ahead may be. We thank you for our friends and family and the support they give us as we seek to serve you and make your world a better place. In your name, AMEN.

Labyrinth – Labyrinths are a bit like mazes, except they offer a single path into the centre and back out again, so there's no way to get lost in one! They have been used as an alternative to pilgrimages for centuries as they don't require you to travel anywhere but still give you an opportunity to travel on a journey for reflective purposes. Make a labyrinth in your meeting space for Pilots to journey round. Create certain points in the labyrinth for Pilots to stop and reflect, pray or write something. Encourage the Pilots to see their journey round the labyrinth as a pilgrimage.

Global Prayers – On a globe of the world, mark different places of Christian pilgrimage. Encourage Pilots to write or say prayers for each of these places, the stories, people and symbols important to those places and any challenges or issues in the part of the world where each site is. As Pilots look at the globe in the future, invite them to think about these places and the many pilgrims visiting them.

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Tony: Following in the footsteps of Jesus was an amazing experience for me and it brought to life the story of his ministry and suffering.

At the time, and many times since, it has caused me to reflect on the events of 2,000 years ago. When I now read the Bible, I have a picture in my mind of what I am reading. It was valuable being in the company of fellow Christians.

I enjoyed the gospel readings which were shared at each holy site. I know that buildings are only bricks and mortar, but I thought the richness of the architecture of the churches and the wonderful, symbolic paintings, statues and mosaics created by previous generations to venerate those places was inspiring.

I also enjoyed travelling in such a historical and culturally rich part of the world. Unforgettable!

”



Jerusalem, Israel

Section 3 – Christian Pilgrimages in the United Kingdom



Travelling abroad for a pilgrimage isn't possible for all people. Fortunately, however, there are many places you can visit in Britain that have special meanings for Christians.

Sites of Pilgrimage are often described as 'thin places' where the distance between heaven and earth is dissolved. We might think of them as places where centuries of prayer have created a super-broadband connection. So many people travel there when they are seeking God's help or intervention and have found them to be helpful places to pray.

Canterbury Cathedral is one such popular site. There are two well-known pilgrim paths that end at Canterbury Cathedral, one from Rochester and one from Winchester. A path can also be followed from Canterbury Cathedral to Santiago de Compostela which was explored in the last session. Canterbury Cathedral is very familiar with receiving pilgrims and has a dedicated

team of priests who welcome pilgrims and provide tours of the Cathedral itself.

There is lots for children and young people on offer at Winchester Cathedral, including a chance to experience what it felt like to be a pilgrim coming to Winchester to visit the Shrine of St Swithun, so it's well worth a visit.

Walsingham in Norfolk is another famous pilgrimage destination in the UK, active since the eleventh century. A noble woman called Richeldis was told in a vision to build a copy of the house in Nazareth where the angel visited Mary to tell her that she would give birth to a son, Jesus. This is housed inside a chapel, and can be visited as part of an organised pilgrimage (there are many every year including ones for children and young people) or informally. Many kings and queens have visited, as well as millions of Christians from all traditions.

Section 3 – Christian Pilgrimages in the United Kingdom

Iona is another famous place for pilgrimages. The tiny Hebridean island has a beautiful Abbey and dedicated family centre (MacLeod Centre) looked after by the Iona Community, members of which are scattered round the world, looking to Iona as a place of inspiration in the struggle for equality and justice for all people.

Although regularly associated with its music festival, Glastonbury is the destination of both Anglican and Roman Catholic annual pilgrimages owing to its rich religious history. The first modern pilgrimage was in 1895, but they have taken place annually since the early 1950s. Pilgrims often climb the Tor, a local hill, during their visit.

Ever since 635 CE, when King Oswald gave the Holy Island of Lindisfarne to St Aidan to establish his monastery, the island has been a place of pilgrimage. Each year there is an organised pilgrimage during Easter week, which culminates in walking the three mile causeway from the mainland to the island. This can only be done at low tide, so careful planning is required!

It's also important to remember that, as well as many explicitly religious sites throughout the UK, there are also other places which are

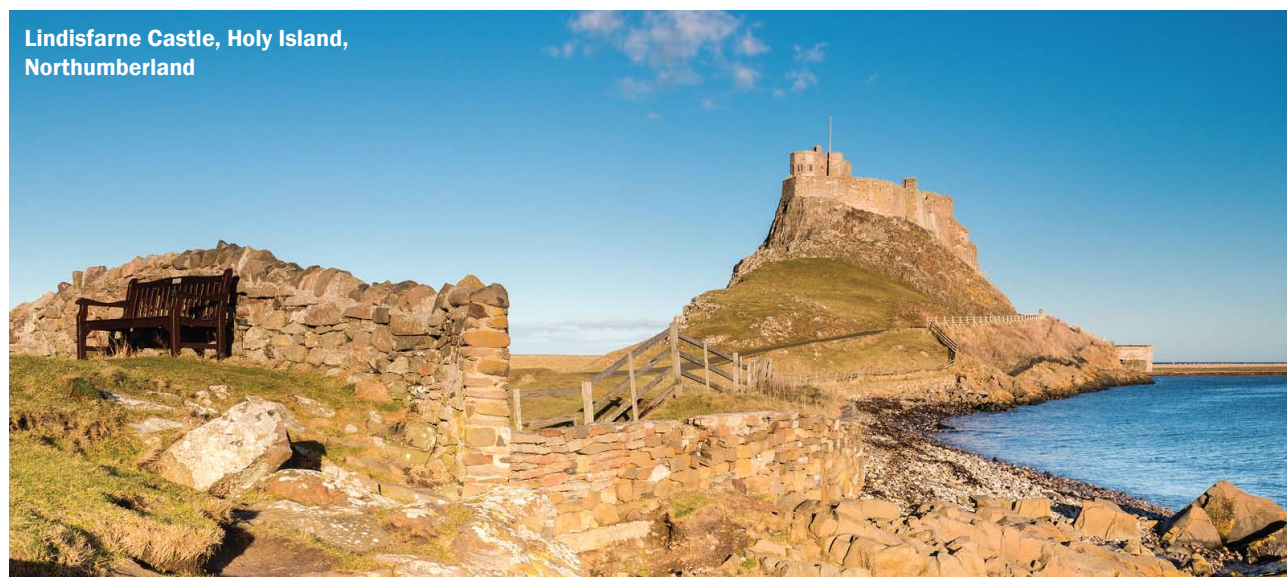
very important to people, such as football stadia, museums, battlefields and castles. Such places can hold a special significance for people in terms of memories, heritage or inspiration. Visiting these sites can also be an act of Pilgrimage.

When people can't travel on a pilgrimage far from where they are or find somewhere close to them, one way in which they can still engage with the reflection, solitude and journeying aspects of pilgrimage is through the use of a labyrinth. Labyrinths are a bit like mazes, except they offer a single path into the centre and back out again, so there's no way to get lost in one! They have been used as an alternative to pilgrimages for centuries as they don't require you to travel anywhere but still give you an opportunity to travel on a journey for reflective purposes. Labyrinths were popular in the Middle Ages and a famous example to survive is in Chartres Cathedral in France. Built around 1200 CE in the floor of the central nave it is often now hidden under chairs (!) but cleared for pilgrims to walk on Fridays from Lent to All Saints' Day (except Good Friday). It can be walked as a pilgrimage, a questing journey with the hope of becoming closer to God, or for repentance (traditionally walking on your knees!). With so many



Iona Abbey, Isle of Iona, Scotland

Section 3 – Christian Pilgrimages in the United Kingdom



churches and places with their own labyrinths, including National Trust properties, it is highly likely that Pilots will be able to find one in their own region to visit.

Alternatively (or additionally), Pilots could set up their own labyrinth using one of the many freely available instruction kits, such as those offered at www.labyrinth.org.uk which the Pilots Desk can provide more information about.

What more can Pilots find out about the pilgrimage sites mentioned above? With so much history and so many significant spots all over the country, it is very likely that there is a popular pilgrimage site, special place or labyrinth nearby, perhaps of local, regional or national importance. If you can find a local site, place or route, why not arrange for Pilots to visit it?

Games

Treasure Hunt - Following a pilgrimage route can be like a treasure hunt, finding things of interest along the way, ending the journey at a site of wonder, beauty or inspiration. Create a pilgrimage route for Pilots to follow, either in the space where Pilots normally meet, or another location, perhaps outside at a local park. Set a sequence of clues, each one leading to the next item in the trail. The last one should point at some treasure, such as

some sweets, an instruction to ask a leader for a prize, or something special to remind them of their journey. However, don't give anything yet, and don't say why. See 'Read the Word' for more details. Clues might include riddles such as:

The next one is easy
If you know where to look
On top of the lectern
Under the Good Book
Back into the hall
As quick as a flash
Under the place
Where we put all our trash

Pilgrimage Swap – Everyone sits on chairs in a circle facing inwards, except for one person who starts in the middle with no chair. Everyone, including the person in the middle, is given a pilgrimage place name. A leader shouts out the names of two places. The two people who have those place names must try to swap places without the person in the middle sitting on one of their chairs before them. If the person in the middle does sit on one of the chairs, the person without a chair is now in the middle. From time to time, shout 'all change' at which point everyone has to swap to a different chair. Once people are used to the game, you can shout three place names, or even four at the same time.

Section 3 – Christian Pilgrimages in the United Kingdom

Arts and Crafts

Marble Maze – Journeys and pilgrimages can bring major challenges. Sometimes we need to make choices about which path to take. In other situations, we're faced with obstacles or difficult paths to tread. Split the Pilots into two teams and challenge them to make a maze using straws, plasticine or other materials so that a marble can be blown through it with a straw. When the teams have finished, they must swap mazes. The teams must then blow a marble with a straw from the edge of the opposing team's maze and back again without touching it or blowing it into a dead end. The Pilot or team to successfully reach the centre and blow the marble back out again, wins.

Finger Labyrinth – Labyrinths are a bit like mazes, except they offer a single path into the centre and back out again, so there's no way to get lost in one! They have been used as an alternative to pilgrimages for centuries as they don't require you to travel anywhere but still give you an opportunity to travel on a journey for reflective purposes. Provide Pilots with a pre-printed finger labyrinth. A sample labyrinth is available in the Additional Resources section. As they trace their finger to the centre and back out again, encourage Pilots to consider their own life journey and God's place within it. Why not ask Pilots to design their own finger pilgrimage for their friends and family to go on. What sort of questions would Pilots like people to think about? At what points along the way would they like people to slow down or speed up? Are there moments when pilgrims should stop for a time of reflection? Encourage the Pilots to make their finger labyrinth colourful and inviting for potential pilgrims.



Read the Word

Read Luke 24:13-35 together.

As the travellers walk along the road to Emmaus, they are saddened, disappointed and uncertain of what will happen next. Their teacher, friend, role model, saviour, has been taken away from them. As they walk together, they use the opportunity to think about what has happened and how they're going to respond. In many ways, they're using this journey as a pilgrimage.

On the way, a stranger appears among them, reminding them of the promise which Jesus has made to return to his followers following his resurrection. These reminders don't appear to make much difference at first, until they invite the stranger to stay with them and realise, in time, that the stranger is Jesus, who has returned to fulfil his promise!

Give the treasure, sweets or other things which you promised the Pilots at the end of the Treasure Hunt.

It feels good when we win a prize or receive something we were promised, but we must be patient and be willing to work hard if we want to see the fruits of our labours. The whole point of pilgrimage is to help us grow and change through the journey. This takes time, energy and commitment, especially when we're talking about the journey that is life itself. When we give all we've got, God promises that we will receive all that we need to reach our full potential.

Learning from the travellers on the road to Emmaus, we must be patient as we wait for the Lord, whose promises will always be fulfilled.



Section 3 – Christian Pilgrimages in the United Kingdom

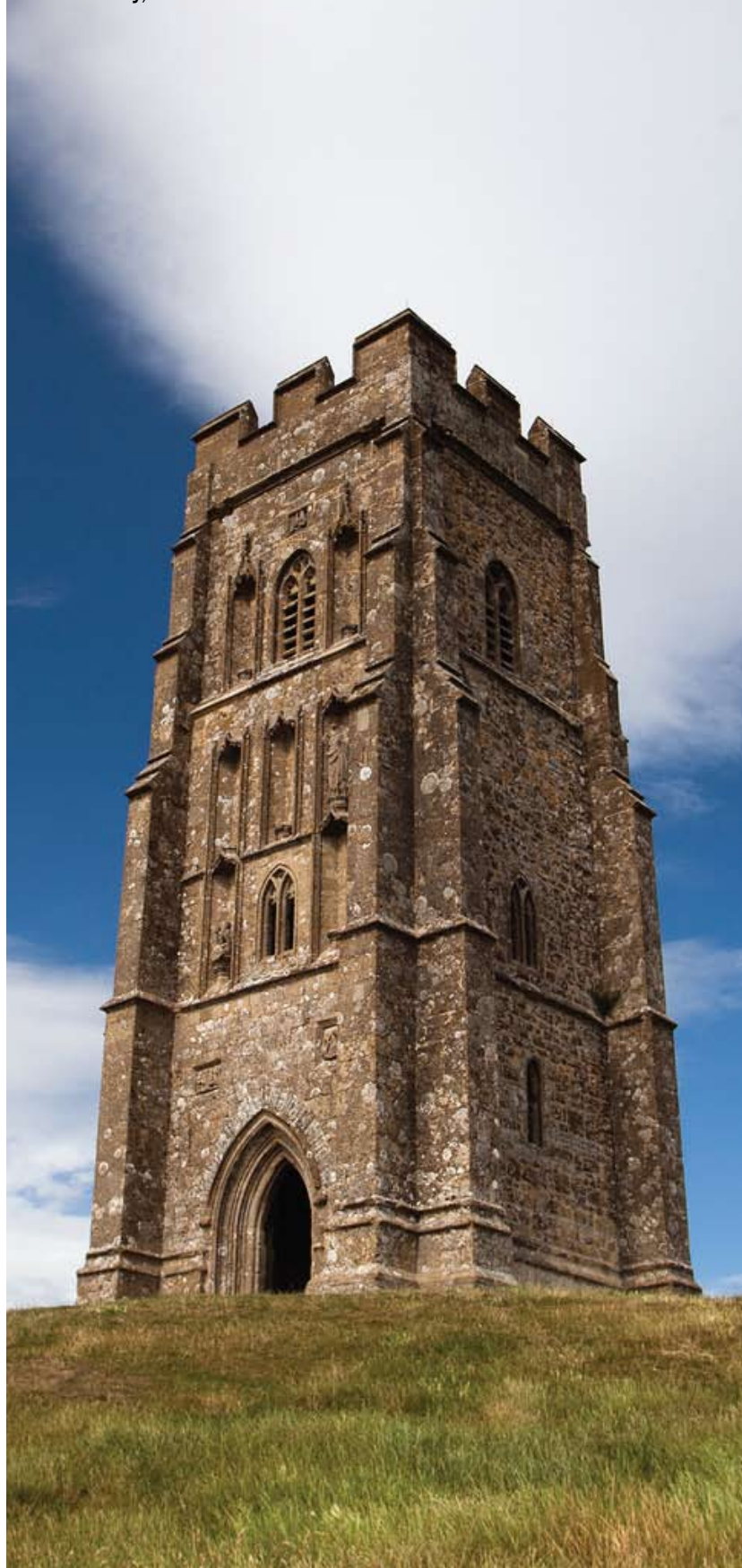
Let us Pray

Precious Holy Spirit, We know that some things are worth waiting for. We know that whilst we treasure many things, your love is the greatest treasure of all, and we thank you that it is available to us, whoever we are, wherever we are, whatever we're facing. Help us to appreciate that it's not a prize we have to win, but a gift that you offer us freely and openly. Help us to use the gifts you give us to glorify and serve you. In your name, Amen.

Time Capsule Prayers – Collect prayers from Pilots on a range of different topics and issues. Encourage them to ask for guidance and support in doing something small, where they are, to make a difference in dealing with the situations and concerns they raise. A few weeks, months or even years down the line, give the prayers back to the Pilots and ask them to reflect on what has happened since they offered these prayers. Sometimes, progress can be fast, in others it can be very slow, but God promises us that when we remain patient and committed to making the world a better place, we will prevail. As we do this, it's good to keep track of where we've been and where we're heading.

Poster Prayer – As well as being patient, we must look to each other, as fellow children of God, for support in building God's Realm of love, peace and justice for all. Encourage the Pilots to work together to create a poster, collage or other piece of art based on one thing which the whole group would like to pray for. Display this piece prominently in the meeting space so that Pilots and others can be reminded that, just as they have made the piece of art together, so they must work together with God and each other to make a difference to the issue or concern they've raised.

St. Michael's Tower, Glastonbury Tor,
Glastonbury, UK



Section 4 – Pilgrim's Progress

John Bunyan, a famous non-conformist preacher, wrote a book called 'The Pilgrims Progress' which was published in 1678. It is about the spiritual journey of a man called Christian as he travels through life from the 'City of Destruction' (which represents Earth) to the 'Celestial City' (which represents heaven). The characters that he meets represent different obstacles that are in his way, such as despair and temptation, ignorance and persecution, which try to stop him from moving forward. He wrote much of the book whilst in prison for non-conformist preaching in public.

He later wrote a second part to the book, which tells the story of Christian's wife – Christiana, their sons and the maiden, Mercy. This story demonstrates that we are all, regardless of status, gender or age, on a spiritual journey, facing the same challenges as our fellow children of God.

The purpose of the book is to help us all along our individual journeys. It is important to recognise that all our journeys are different, but many of the challenges that Christian finds on his journey will be on our journey too. The challenges we face are not important. What is important, however, is what we do when we meet them. It is our response to them which will determine the impact they have on our lives. Challenging experiences should be approached as opportunities to make ourselves better people, rather than scary obstacles to put us off. We should always remember that God will never put us in situations we can't cope with, as long as we are able to trust in God's promises and use our gifts and talents for good purposes.

A good summary video can be found here: https://youtu.be/65_hIQHvNFY or obtained from the Pilots Desk alongside a text summary. Leaders should note that the word 'rape' is used at around 2:57, but the video is otherwise easy for all age groups to understand and engage with.

As an alternative story, Hinds' Feet on High Places by Hannah Hurnard (1955) takes its inspiration from Habakkuk 3:19. A young woman called Much Afraid sets out on a journey to the High Places of the Shepherd, guided by companions Sorrow and Suffering, and overcoming many obstacles, dangers and set-backs. Like Pilgrim's Progress, it is an allegory of our desire as God's children to be led to new heights of love and joy, and to be transformed by drawing closer to Jesus.

How do Pilots relate to this story? Who or what are the characters in their life story who help or hinder their progress? How do Pilots respond when faced with difficult or challenging circumstances?



Section 4 – Pilgrim's Progress

Games

Help and Hindrance – Place a number of obstacles around the meeting space and split the Pilots in half. The aim is for a blindfolded Pilot from each team to make their way from one end of the meeting space to the other, with the help of their fellow Pilots, without hitting any of the obstacles. The challenge is that whilst their team will be helping them with advice on how to get around the obstacles, members of the other team will try to hinder them with false instructions. No one is allowed to touch the blindfolded Pilot. The blindfolded Pilot will need to listen carefully for the voices of their teammates and decide who to listen to. It is the same with our journey of life. We don't always know the path to take and we must carefully listen for God's voice, telling us the way forward.

Game of Life – You need sheets of coloured A4 (six red, ten yellow and six green), and at least one, preferably large, dice. The sheets should be laid out on the floor, red ones, then yellow ones, then green ones. Pilots roll the dice in turn. If they get a one, they can join the game. They can join at any point on the path. Pilots continue to take turns rolling the dice. Once they are on the board, they will determine how they move (up the board is towards the green end, down the board is towards to red end) by adjusting the score they roll using the following rules: if on red, deduct two, if on yellow deduct three, and if on green deduct four. For instance, if on red and you roll a four, you deduct two and therefore move forward two spaces. If your score is negative you move backwards. If at any point you roll a six, you are out and must leave the board. Either play until everyone is out, or put a time limit on the game. After the game, invite Pilots to observe any ways in which the game seems similar to life. Talk about how, in life, as in the game, not everyone gets their start or break at the same time. Sometimes, things seem to be going really well, then they fall down at the last minute. At others, our fortunes seem

hopeless when suddenly they rise up again. In life, as in the game, everyone, no matter who they are, has an equal chance of reaching the green, but they also have an equal chance of reaching the red, or being put out of the game altogether. The good news about life is that it's not the dice that's in charge, but a loving, caring God who always gives us a chance to try again without being put out altogether. In the game, as long as no-one is put out, everyone will, eventually, reach the green. God makes sure that the same can happen for us in life. We will all be sent along different routes on our journey of life, with different challenges and issues which will play an important role in shaping our identity, but if we follow God's call for our lives, we will win in the end.

Arts and Crafts

Game of Our Lives – Having played the Game of Life, challenge Pilots to design their own game based on life. It could be a board game, a team game or maybe a computer game. Encourage Pilots to think about how people playing the game will experience it. Will players understand the aim? Will they understand how to play? What rules will ensure that players don't cheat? Or do there need to be such rules if the game is about life, which is quite uncertain and difficult to predict? Encourage Pilots to think about how the joys, sorrows and ultimate aim of life might be represented in their game.



Section 4 – Pilgrim's Progress

Story of My Life - Ask the Pilots to think about the places they've been, the people they've met and the challenges they've faced in their lives so far. Ask them to draw a path on a piece of paper, with straight stretches to represent smooth and happy times and windy or zig-zag points to indicate issues or trouble. Ask them to include people (stick figures or full drawings) with names next to them, showing the people they have met who have either helped or hindered them along the way. Pilots can use real names, or chose fictional names like those in the Pilgrim's Progress, if they don't want to identify people. Pilots may like to write a few words saying what happened to them, or what someone did to help or hinder them. They may, for example, have been helped by the person who introduced them to Church, but might have been hindered by a bully at school or saddened when a loved one was ill.

Read the Word

Read Luke 9:1-6 together.

Given everything that Pilots will have explored in the previous session about preparing well for journeys, this command from Jesus to his disciples not to prepare as they go out to spread the Good News to the world may seem strange. On the one hand, we read much in scripture encouraging us to think carefully about what we're doing, the paths we choose and the effects which our actions can have if we don't consider them carefully. On the other, we have Jesus telling us not to worry about these things.

Why do Pilots think Jesus might have said these things to his disciples? What message might Jesus have wanted his disciples to receive? How might Jesus have wanted his disciples to respond to these words?

When people go on one of the formal pilgrimages which Pilots have been learning about, such as those to Santiago de Compostela, or travel to each of the Char Dham, they do so using paths which are well trodden. The risks along these roads are well-known,

as are the destinations to which people are travelling. It is important, when going on these types of journeys, that we plan effectively, make sure we have the right equipment and know the direction we need to go in. If we know we have a test or exam coming up at school, college or work, it is important for us to revise, practice and refine our skills so that we're ready to face the coming challenge.

However, the journey which Jesus is calling his disciples to make is quite different. Jesus isn't asking them to go to a pre-defined place along a pre-determined path. Jesus is asking his disciples to trust God to direct their lives so that they might use their gifts and talents to serve God's purposes of love, peace and justice for all.

When we're talking about the journey of life, nothing is certain. Everyone is unique, and so is their journey. We will all face different choices and challenges and we will all have different ways of tackling these. In the journey of life, it is impossible to plan because we don't know where we're going. It is impossible to pack equipment because we don't know what risks we'll face. It is impossible to know exactly what awaits us as we move forward, with no indication of what our own, personal destination will look like in the end. Going on a journey without knowing the route or destination is a daunting concept. What Jesus promises is that when we trust God to guide our journey, we will be led along a path which will help us to reach our full potential. This path will give us hope and a future. This path will help to build God's Realm.

Section 4 – Pilgrim's Progress

Let Us Pray

Almighty Lord, We are all on a journey, a journey through which we seek to become more like you every day. But it's hard. There are a lot of distractions on the way, and a lot of people who don't understand the good things you are calling us to bring into the world. Even though we don't always know where we're going or how we're going to get there, you always know the way, always guide us and always support us. Help us always, then, to be focused on the right path, the path that leads to your Realm, trusting that all will be well. We ask these things in your name, AMEN.

Prayer Walk – Having thought about journeys and travelling, organise a walk for Pilots around the local community. During the walk, encourage Pilots to think about their local area and the people who live and work there. Stop at various places (such as schools, churches, libraries and shops) to pray for God's blessing and presence in the community, thinking about the challenges and issues facing people

in the area. What might Pilots do to make a difference to the community around them?

Journey Tree – Place an outline of a tree trunk on a wall in the meeting space. Give Pilots different colours of sugar paper, scissors and glue. Encourage each Pilot to draw around their foot or shoe and cut the outline out. Ask Pilots to write something about their own journey of life. Perhaps they could write down a particular talent they have, or subjects they're good at, or perhaps what they'd like to do when they're older. When these are written, ask them to stick their outline to the trunk of the tree, with the writing showing, so that the outlines of feet and shoes become the 'leaves' of the tree. On our own, our single footprints and journeys of life can seem quite insignificant, but together, as we all travel on our different journeys, guided by God, we are making a real impact on the world around us. Encourage Pilots to pray for God's blessing on all our journeys and reflect on God's presence in each of them.

Pilgrims on the path to Santiago de Compostela, Spain



Leading Worship

This section focuses on using everything that Pilots have been exploring throughout the sessions in these resources to help Pilots plan a worship service to be led by them in their local church.

The sections in this resource have focussed on the theme of Pilgrimage. They have looked at:

- Pilgrimages in World Religions
- Christian Pilgrimages around the Globe
- Christian Pilgrimages in the UK
- Pilgrim's Progress

The theme has been explored using Bible stories, activities, games, crafts and prayer ideas. Now it's time for Pilots to weave what they've been doing into a service of worship.

Work together with the Pilots to choose the content of the worship. There are guidelines at the beginning of the pack to help with both the contextual and practical elements of planning worship. This section provides a suggested Order of Service, which is only a guide to help you think about the structure of worship.

Suggested Order of Service

For alternative and more detailed suggestions, please visit the affiliated companies section of the Pilots website (<https://www.urc.org.uk/affiliated-companies.html>) or contact the Pilots Desk.

Introduction – Give an overview of the service, reminding worshippers that the Pilots will be leading worship and explaining a little about what they've been exploring through the four sessions in these materials.

First Song – Guide me, oh thou Great Redeemer

Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 and 21

Pilgrimages in World Faiths – Ask Pilots to share their Pilgrimage Scrapbooks and Prayer Postcards from Session 1, explaining why it's important to learn about and respect the beliefs and practices of our neighbours.

Prayer - Loving God, Help us to respect the values and views of all our neighbours and to appreciate the importance of the pilgrimages, symbols and stories which different faiths and traditions share with us. Help us to accept that we might not always see everything there is to see and to keep an open mind about how the teachings and practices of others could help us to understand more of you and your plans for us. In your name, AMEN.

Second Song – One more step along the world I go

Christian Pilgrimages Around the Globe – Explain a little about one of the international Christian pilgrimages which Pilots have been exploring, perhaps displaying the globe which Pilots have used to locate pilgrimages. Split the congregation into groups and challenge them to carry out the checklist activity from Session 2.

Leading Worship

Prayer - Saviour Jesus, We often don't have all the answers, and we don't know where to turn. Help us to remember that you are with us and that we only have to trust in you and you will help us through our difficult times, no matter how rough things get or uncertain the way ahead may be. We thank you for our friends and family and the support they give us as we seek to serve you and make your world a better place. In your name, AMEN.

Third Song - I want to walk with Jesus Christ

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Christian Pilgrimages in the UK - Following a brief explanation of some of the UK Pilgrimage sites which Pilots have been thinking about, show photos from the Prayer Walk from Session 4 and share some of the prayers which Pilots have offered for the community around them, explaining that pilgrimage can be carried out everywhere, at all times!

Prayer - Precious Holy Spirit, We know that some things are worth waiting for. We know that whilst we treasure many things, your love is the greatest treasure of all, and we thank you that it is available to us, whoever we are, wherever we are, whatever we're facing. Help us to appreciate that it's not a prize we have to win, but a gift that you offer us freely and openly. Help us to use the gifts you give us to glorify and serve you. In your name, Amen.

Fourth Song - Will you come and follow me, if I but call your name

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:1-6

Pilgrim's Progress - Using what they've learned of the story, encourage Pilots to tell the story, in their own way, with the congregation. They may wish to act it out or draw pictures to show. They may wish to update the language or make their own, modern version. Explain how, like the main character in the story, we face many challenges in our own journey, but if we trust God, we can trust that wherever we're going and however we're going to get there, all will be well.

Closing hymn - To be a Pilgrim

Blessing - Almighty Lord, We are all on a journey, a journey through which we seek to become more like you every day. But it's hard. There are a lot of distractions on the way, and a lot of people who don't understand the good things you are calling us to bring into the world. Even though we don't always know where we're going or how we're going to get there, you always know the way, always guide us and always support us. Help us always to be focused on the right path, the path that leads to your Kingdom, trusting that all will be well. And the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us, now and forevermore, AMEN.

Additional Resources

Puzzles

C	U	U	Y	V	I	N	D	I	A
X	H	T	E	M	P	L	E	S	U
S	A	A	N	K	Q	M	M	L	M
R	J	C	R	R	U	P	M	A	T
J	J	C	U	D	R	S	A	M	O
H	E	E	O	D	A	A	H	T	J
P	K	M	J	T	N	H	O	I	E
C	P	I	L	G	R	I	M	S	M
B	U	W	S	R	K	B	H	I	C
A	F	X	R	J	F	B	T	V	T

CHARDAM

INDIA

MECCA

QURAN

TEMPLES

HINDU

JOURNEY

PILGRIM

SIKH

HAJJ

ISLAM

MOHAMMED

SAHIB

VISIT

Additional Resources

E	U	H	M	R	K	U	J	L	E	S	O	K
Y	Q	L	O	U	R	D	E	S	F	L	E	F
B	Q	R	G	L	S	Q	C	Q	N	U	U	A
I	D	Z	A	H	Y	A	T	B	O	J	Z	C
U	D	C	I	R	M	L	C	E	E	I	O	I
D	T	Q	T	I	Q	C	A	R	P	M	Z	L
H	B	G	N	A	B	B	U	N	P	Z	W	I
E	I	O	A	T	E	S	M	A	D	U	G	S
G	V	L	S	L	A	P	S	D	M	M	Q	A
U	S	M	N	L	I	T	N	E	T	E	Q	B
R	O	M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	F	Z
Q	T	M	L	L	R	X	E	T	G	J	Y	A
E	T	M	A	Q	D	W	E	E	L	C	Z	H

BASILICA
BERNADETTE
BETHLEHEM
CAMINO

GALILEE
HOLYLAND
JERUSALEM
LOURDES

ROME
SANTIAGO

Additional Resources

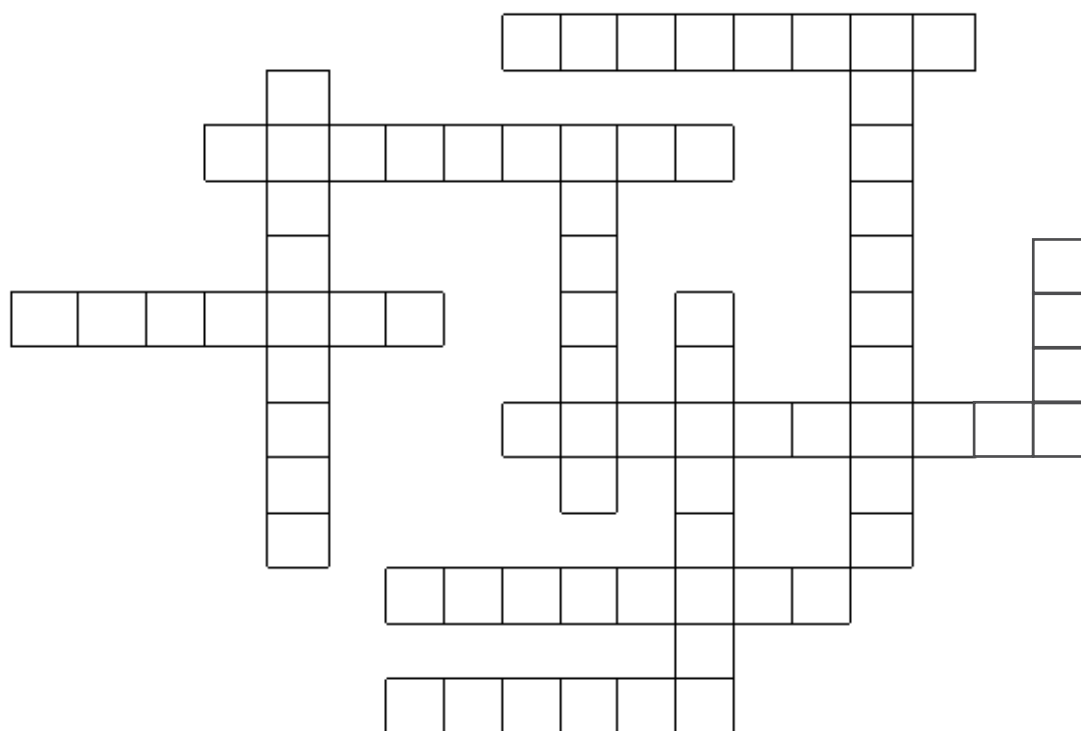
Using the code below, work out what the coded message is:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Z	Y	X	W	V	U	T	S	R	Q	P	O	N	M	L	K	J	I	H	G	F	E	D	C	B	A

V	E	V	I	B		N	F	H	O	R	N		H	S	L	F	O	W		E	R	H	R	G

N	V	X	X	Z		L	M	X	V		R	M		G	S	V	R	I		O	R	E	V	H

Fit the words into the grid



4 Letters

Rome

6 Letters

Camino

7 Letters

Galilee

Lourdes

8 Letters

Basilica

Holyland

Santiago

9 Letters

Bethlehem

Jerusalem

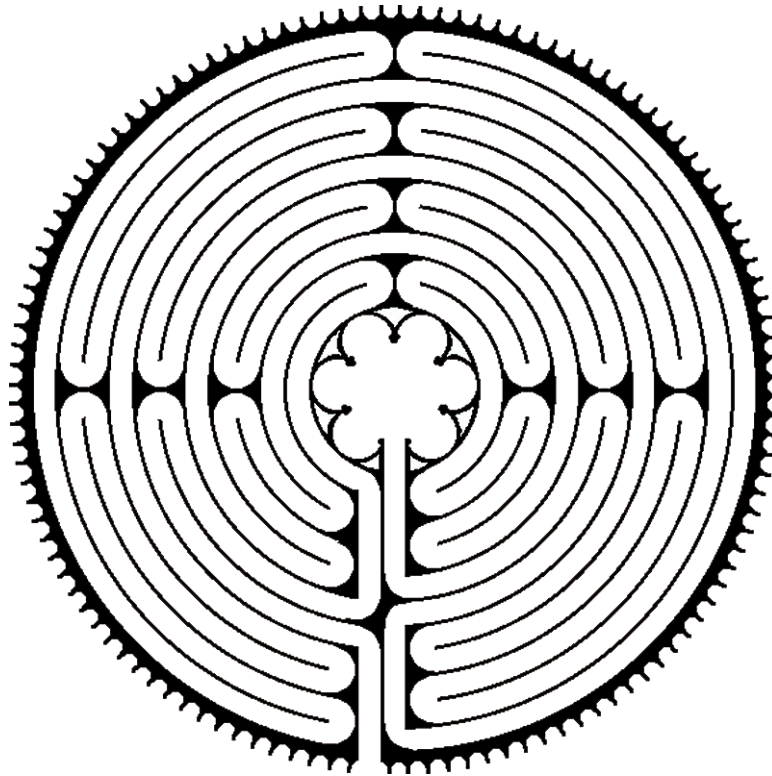
10 Letters

Bernadette

Compostela

Additional Resources

Finger Labyrinth



Story Race Sample Story

Here is a sample story which can be used during the Story Race activity in session 2.

One day, when **Jesus** was twelve, he travelled with his family to **Jerusalem** to celebrate the Feast of the Passover in the **temple**. He was so excited that he kept asking **Joseph** "Are we there yet? I can't wait to see the **temple** again!"

Whilst in **Jerusalem**, they worshipped **God** in the **temple** and celebrated the Passover. **Mary** and **Joseph** enjoyed talking to the **teachers**, and learning more about **God**. When the celebration was over, the adults and **children** from **Jesus**' village began their journey home from **Jerusalem**. The **children** were all running and playing together along the way. **Mary** and **Joseph** thought that **Jesus** was with the other **children**. But when they looked for him, he was nowhere to be found. **Mary** and **Joseph** were terribly worried!

"We must have left him behind in **Jerusalem**!" said **Mary**.

For three days, **Mary** and **Joseph** searched for **Jesus** in the crowded streets and markets

of the city. At last, **Joseph** decided that they should look in the **Temple**... And there was **Jesus**! Sitting with the **teachers**, amazing them with his wisdom and how well he understood **God**'s love. He was different to the other **children**.

Mary was very upset. "We have been searching for you everywhere!" said **Joseph**.

"Why were you searching for me?" **Jesus** replied gently. "Didn't you know that I would be in my father's house?"

Jesus had realised that **God** was his true father, and that the **temple** was the place he wanted to be. **Mary**'s eyes grew wide, and she never forgot that moment. **Jesus** grew into a man both strong and wise.

Jesus – mentioned 8 times

Mary – mentioned 7 times

Joseph – mentioned 7 times

Temple – mentioned 5 times

God – mentioned 4 times

Jerusalem – mentioned 4 times

Children – mentioned 4 times

Teachers – mentioned 2 times

**Are there children
and young people in
your church?**

**Whether the answer
is yes or no, Pilots is
for you!**



**Pilots is a non-uniformed
Christian organisation for
children and young people
aged 5 to 18.**

Pilots believes that children and young people matter. Therefore, Pilots gives local churches the chance to share the love of God in the ongoing life of Jesus Christ by inviting children and young people on an exciting journey.

Pilots

- is a mission resource
- enables self-discovery in a fun, secure environment
- gives an opportunity to respond to God
- is rooted in the world-wide church
- helps young people to grow in the Christian faith

**Pilots is flexible. The programme is
adaptable to each local situation. The core
elements are worship, learning and
service.**

Pilgrimage

Worship Material for Children and Young People 2018

For the whole United Reformed Church

Produced by the Pilots Desk, United Reformed Church House, 86 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9RT
t: 020 7916 8637 e: pilots@urc.org.uk www.pilots.org.uk Find us on Facebook

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