

## Thanks



### Find

- Squeak, the mouse that tells the Harvest story.
- Small match box or jewellery boxes wrapped up with gift paper.

### Introduce

- *Introduce Squeak as the mouse who has been on the Harvest adventure. Begin the assembly by inviting a child to come and see what the mouse has hidden in his nest today (which will be the boxes wrapped up).*
- What do the children think the parcels are for? Could they be for a birthday or a baptism or a wedding? Have they noticed that the presents don't have labels? How will the children know who gave them the presents? When someone gives you a present would you usually say thank you? Why is it important that we say thank you when someone gives us a gift? What is special about those two words?

### Play

- **'Mix and Match'**
- This game is a challenge to match suitable gifts with the appropriate animals. You will need to get two sets of the pictures suggested below (or some of your own). If you have time you get cuddly toys of the animals to make it a little more creative.
- Next get two teams of three children to the front whose job it is to correctly match animal with appropriate gift. The rest of the school are invited to count down from thirty to one. This gives the two teams 30seconds to match as many animals with gifts as they can. Give points to the team that completes the challenge first, or for every correct match.
- Picture of a mouse and some cheese
- Picture of dog and a bone
- Picture of a cat and a fish
- Picture of a monkey and a banana
- Picture of a parrot and some nuts
- Picture of a rabbit and some lettuce
- Picture of a bird and a worm etc...
- At the end of the game ask the children what the different animals need to say when they get their correct gift. Hopefully they will say 'thank you!' If you have time you could even ask the children how they think the different animals might express their thanks for the gifts E.g. a cat will purr, a dog may bark, a parrot could even be trained to say thank you, and so on.

continued...



## Talk

- How would you feel if you did something nice for someone and they didn't say thank you.
- In the Bible there is a story about some people that forgot to say 'thank you' and one that didn't. The Bible tells us that Jesus was out walking one day when he met ten men who were really poorly. They had a disease called leprosy. It is a skin disease and is very painful. People in those days were very frightened of catching leprosy and so wouldn't let anyone who was a leper live near them. Can you imagine how that would feel?
- The men shouted to Jesus from a distance 'Jesus please help us'. Jesus said to them that they had to go to the temple and show themselves to the priests, and all of a sudden their leprosy had gone. Wow! The men were amazed and turned away and started to run to their homes. But one of the men suddenly turned back and came to talk to Jesus and said those two important words 'thank you'. But Jesus had only wanted them to say thank you to God and to tell everyone about how amazing God is. It's hard to believe that the other nine men didn't say thank you isn't it?
- Can you think of times when maybe you haven't said thank you to someone. Maybe even today you haven't said thank you to someone who has helped you or given you a treat. Saying thank you isn't very hard to do but can make other people feel really happy.
- Harvest is the time when Christians say thank you to God for all the good things that we have. We can say thank you to God for all sorts of good things not just the food that we eat.
- There are still people in India, China and Africa that have leprosy, but today there are people who are looking after them and trying to find a cure for leprosy. Maybe today you can think about people who have leprosy and say thank you to God for the doctors and nurses looking after them.

## Pray

- Invite the children to sing a final prayer this morning to the tune 'Once I caught a fish a line. It's really simple.
- One two three four five, thank you God that we're alive.
- Six seven eight nine ten thank you for our food, Amen
- Or simply invite pupils to just sit and think for a few minutes about all the good things they have that you would like to thank God for.
- And read the prayer
- Thank you God that you care for us and that we all have people to care for us.
- Thank you for those people that today loved those with leprosy. Thank you that today they are not a rejected people.

### Classroom follow up:

- Find out about organisations such as the Leprosy Mission and the work that they do.
- Cut out and decorate gift labels on which they could write all the good gifts they want to say thank you for, or people who have cared for them, and stick them on a big pre wrapped parcel.