

Today we're going to think about remembering.

Close your eyes and remember something good that happened at the weekend - **invite one or two to share.**

Close your eyes again, and try to remember right back to last year or when you were much younger, to something that makes you feel happy when you remember it - **invite one or two to share.**

Sometimes, objects can help us to remember. I've brought along three objects that help me to remember:

Show three objects: two that are visually appealing to children (e.g. cuddly toy) and remind you of happy times; one that reminds you of a mixture of happy and sad times (e.g. something made for you or given to you by a person you love, but who is now ill or has died).

In the last week or so, you've probably seen lots of people wearing poppies. Do you know what they help us to remember? **(take answers).**

They help us to remember all the people who have died in wars since the First World War, which started 100 years ago in 1914 and ended 96 years ago today: at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1918.

The war had lasted for a long time, and thousands of soldiers from all over the world were killed.

The next Spring, the fields in France where the fighting had taken place were overgrown with millions of red poppies. When the people saw them, they felt very sad because they remembered the soldiers who died in the war, but.....but they also felt hopeful because such beautiful flowers were growing where the battles had been fought.

So the poppy was chosen as a symbol to help us to remember the soldiers, and to remind us to hope for andand work towards an end to wars.

Can you see anything else that I'm wearing, which is an object to help us remember? **Cross on a chain**

Where else have you seen a cross? **Church**

What does the cross help us to remember? **Jesus died on the cross so that we might be forgiven for all the things we have done wrong and.....and if we invite him into our lives as our Lord & Saviour he will be our friend and help us.**

My cross helps me to remember that Jesus died for us, and that makes me feel sad because I feel sorry that I've done wrong things.

But my cross is empty unlike some crosses you see **(show picture of crucified Christ)**, to remind me that Jesus rose from the dead, and that makes me feel very happy. I know that when Jesus died on the cross he took the punishment for all the bad things I've done. And when he rose again, he gave me the promise of a new life too....if I do my very best to follow his teaching and invite him into my life.

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, whenever we do something wrong we just need to say sorry to God and he will forgive us. Not just once, but every time. Like the father of the lost son, he's just desperate for us to come back to him. We can have a fresh start with God every day, because he loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die for us - and then to rise again to new life, giving us a new hope every day.

Let us pray:

Father God,

We thank you for the cross.

We thank you for loving us so muchand wanting to be our friend to help and guide us.

We ask you to look comfort all those families who have lost someone they love because of wars.

We ask you to look after those who have lost their homes, or have little or no food or water because of wars.

We ask you to help us to bring peace and happiness into your world.

We ask these things in the precious name of Jesus. Amen