



Sowing Seeds

Bible storytelling and worship with children



Remembrance Day Storytelling

You will need:

- 'Small world' people and horses (such as wooden figures or Happyland/Fisher Price figures).
- Two brown pieces of fabric or tissue/crepe paper large enough to cover the figures when they are lain down.
- Remembrance Poppies: one for each child and 10 extra

The Sowing Seeds Poppy Song

Song: 'The Sowing Seeds poppy song'. Words © Sharon Moughtin

Tune: 'Lavender's blue' (traditional).



The Sowing Seeds Poppy Song

See in the fields (blossom, blossom), *Hand shading eyes, looking*

red poppies grow. *Twist hands upwards like a snake/poppy stem growing.*

Signs of new life (blossom, blossom), *Open palms while keeping wrists together to form a cup shape.*
letting us know . . . *Hand to chest.*

Time to fall quiet (blossom, blossom) *Finger to mouth.*

for all who died. *Hands crossed on chest.*

Time now for hope (blossom, blossom), *Twist hands upwards like a snake/poppy stem growing.*

time now for life. *Open palms while keeping wrists together to form a cup shape.*

See in the fields (blossom, blossom), *Hand shading eyes, looking.*

red poppies grow. *Twist hands upwards like a snake/poppy stem growing.*

Signs of new life (blossom, blossom), *Open palms while keeping wrists together to form a cup shape.*
now let peace flow! *Hands flowing like a river*

Repeat until the group is becoming confident.



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The Story of the Poppies

In November, we remember.

Today's a very special day for remembering.

It's called 'Remembrance Sunday/Day'.

It's the day when we remember the World Wars.

Show a poppy. Has anyone seen one of these around?

What is it? *Accept the children's responses.*

We use these poppies to help us remember.

Optional: If your group is choosing to use the song later, this is a good time to teach it:

We have a song about the poppies.

Let's learn it together now.

It has the words 'blossom, blossom' in it.

Let's say that 'my turn' *point to self*, 'your turn' *leader's hands out to group*

'blossom, blossom' *point to self*

'blossom, blossom' *leader's hands out to group*

We're ready to learn the whole song.

Ask the children first to say the words after you while performing the actions. Then add the tune. Very young children may choose only to join in with the actions and the 'blossom, blossom' words.

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now let peace flow! *Hands flowing like a river*

Repeat until the group is becoming confident.

All groups:

These poppies tell a story.

We're going to listen to that story now.

If your group is used to telling stories from the Sowing Seeds resources:

This story is different from any other story that we tell together.

Normally we all join in.

This is a special story.

It's a story to be quiet for.

Who can show me quiet?



This is a story that we listen to using our ears. *Hold ears*
Not our mouths. *Finger on lips*
Or our hands or our feet.

If appropriate:

Today, adults are stopping everything
and being completely quiet for two whole minutes,
standing still.

This is the story that everyone will be thinking about.

So we're going to sit still here
and be quiet for two minutes as well.

We're going to place our hands on our chest like this.
Show the group how to cross their arms on their chest.
And while we're quiet,
I'm going to tell you the poppies' story.
Are you ready?

When the group is ready:

About one hundred years ago people started fighting.
Place three 'small world' figures down.
They started fighting for lots of reasons.

But once they started, they couldn't stop.
More people joined in
Place more figures down, including farmers, shopkeeper, horses, etc.
and then more

until almost the whole world was fighting.
Not just soldiers,
but farmers and policemen,
teachers and artists.

Even people who didn't like fighting had to fight.
Even horses.
Lots of people got very badly hurt;
lots of people died.

Lay down the people on the floor in silence and lay a brown cloth over the fallen figures.
Everyone was very sad.

Then something surprising happened.
In the fields where the fighting had happened, red poppies grew!
Lay the poppies down on the brown cloth.

People looked at the beautiful poppies
and remembered how beautiful life can be.
They shook their heads and said,
'We must never fight like this again! *Shake head*
We must remember this, so it never happens again!
These poppies will remind us!'
That was the First World War.



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But just a few years later,
the fighting began again.

This time, there were some bullies.

Place figures down next to the last brown cloth.

They began to hurt people.

Place women and children down and lay them down.

'What can we do?' everyone asked.

The bullying got worse and worse.

'We have to stop them.

We will have to fight!' they said.

So the fighting began again.

Place figures down.

Like last time, not only soldiers had to fight,

but firefighters and shopkeepers,

bus drivers and dancers.

Place children, older people, pets, etc. down.

But this time, the fighting spread

so it even hurt people at home.

Children and old people, animals and pets.

Lots of people were badly hurt.

Lots of people died.

Lay the people and animals down.

But the bullies were stopped.

That was the Second World War.

Place the second brown cloth over the people.

When the fighting finished,

everyone shook their heads and said,

'We must never fight like this again!

We must remember these World Wars

so they never happen again!

We must learn not to fight when we're cross or scared,

but to use our words instead.

The beautiful poppies will remind us!

Indicate the red poppies on the first brown cloth.

That's why we wear poppies in November.

To remember the World Wars.

To remember all the people who died.

Today, there is more fighting

all around the world.

We remember the people – all of them - who have died.

We remember the creatures and places that have been harmed.

We remember the soldiers and leaders who try to keep people safe.



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And we promise to try to learn to use our words
and not fight,
from the very littlest of us.

I wonder when we forget to use our words
and hurt people instead? ...

We have a song about the poppies.
Can you remember the words, 'blossom, blossom'?
Let's sing our song now
and maybe you can help me with the actions.

The Sowing Seeds Poppy Song

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red poppies grow. *Twist hands upwards like a snake/poppy stem growing.*
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now let peace flow! *Hands flowing like a river*

You may like to end here, or, if you would like to include a time of prayer, continue with the following..

Show the group one or more baskets/trays with poppies.

In a moment, Name and Name are going to bring round these poppies.

If you like, you could take one and hold it up like this. Model to the children holding up their poppy.

Let's ask God to see our poppy as a prayer for peace.

Sing the 'Sowing Seeds poppy song' until all the children and adults who wish to take a poppy have done so.

Let's give our poppy prayers for peace to God as we sing.

You can put your poppy anywhere you like on our cloth.

Indicate the cloth that was laid over the 'small world' people in the storytelling.

*Let's ask God to hear our poppy as a prayer
that we – and all our leaders – will use our words instead of fighting.*

Sing the song again as you lead the group in placing their poppies. Some groups may like to invite two children to go around the circle in opposite directions with trays to collect the poppies. The poppies can then be laid on the cloth by one or two of the children. You may like to end by saying the last verse as a closing prayer.

*See in the fields, red poppies grow.
Signs of new life, now let peace flow!*