

## 27.4.20 COLLECTIVE WORSHIP BLOG

### SERVICE WEEK 1: Sacrificial service

In this act of worship the children will learn about the life of Hannah Senesh and reflect on how she selflessly served her people wherever she was.

#### Introduction

Today the story is about a young Jewish girl named Hannah Senesh, she is remembered with great affection and admiration. In recognition of her bravery more than thirty streets in Israel have been named after her.



#### Story (Read this together with your children)

Through her actions Hannah Senesh left a legacy which is remembered today. This story explains what this was.

#### **L** is for Life

In 1921 a baby girl was born in Hungary. Her name was Hannah Senesh. Hannah was born into a Jewish family and when she was 18 years old she went to live in a country called Palestine. Here the Jewish people hoped to establish a country where they could live in peace.

But life does not always turn out the way we expect or would like it to. This is certainly true of the life of Hannah Senesh.

#### **E** is for Events

Far away in Europe events were happening that would affect the lives of millions of people. For the world was at war. During the Second World War Hitler invaded many countries across Europe. The German soldiers arrested many Jewish people and put them into harsh and cruel prison camps. Hannah Senesh heard what was happening to the Jewish people and became more and more disturbed.

### **G is for get up and Go!**

Hannah decided that she had to do something to help her people. She joined the British Army and set off with others on a daring mission. Hannah parachuted into enemy territory where she helped both British prisoners and Jewish people escaping from the Germans.

Sadly Hannah was captured and put into prison. Conditions in prison were terrible and Hannah was treated very cruelly.

### **A is for Action**

Even though life in prison was very hard, Hannah still took action. She discovered that her mother was being held in the same prison and did whatever she could to communicate with her and with the other Jewish women and children.

There was one small window high up in her cell. Hannah piled her small table on top of her bed and then balanced her chair on top of that. By balancing on the chair she could hold up letters cut from old newspapers and spell out messages through her window.

Whenever the guards allowed it, Hannah told stories and made dolls from rags and newspapers for the children in the prison. Her small actions made life a bit more bearable for the other prisoners.

### **C is for Courage**

Hannah bravely refused to give the German soldiers any information. In her short life, she was just 22 years old, Hannah needed courage many times. None more so than when she was shot by her jailers for refusing to help them.

### **Y is for You.**

We have heard how Hannah's life was caught up in world events. She got up, took action and is remembered today for her courageous service to her people. That is her legacy.

You may never have to do the things that Hannah Senesh did, but what can you do to help others? What will you be remembered for?

### **Reflection (Discuss this together)**

Discuss with your children the sort of person Hannah was and what special qualities she displayed in her life.

Remind the children that streets in Israel are still named after Hannah today to commemorate her life.

Ask them for suggestions of special people they think deserve to have a street named after them and the reasons for their choice. They could write about this is they want to in their book.

## **Prayer**

Dear God

Thank you for the example of Hannah who even in the darkest and most terrible times thought only of serving others with kindness and compassion.

Help us to find ways to encourage those around us, especially when they are sad or feeling hopeless.

Amen

## **Taking It Further**

### **EYFS & Key Stage 1**

- Get the children to cut out letters from magazines and newspapers to spell out a message or just their own name for the younger ones.

### **Key Stage 2**

- Use a world map to chart Hannah's journeys and write an account of her life and legacy. Hannah was born in Budapest and lived in Israel before joining the army. She trained in Egypt and then parachuted into Yugoslavia (now Bosnia) before she was arrested and imprisoned by the Nazis in Budapest. She was executed in Budapest in 1944. For more information about her life go to [www.hannahsenesh.org.il](http://www.hannahsenesh.org.il)

I hope you enjoy sharing this act of worship and the ideas in it within your family group this week.

Mr M. Foster,

Headteacher.