



**BIRTHDAY SONGS** by Dean Atkins sourced from [www.theassemblyline.co.uk](http://www.theassemblyline.co.uk)

*This assembly looks at what it means to be a disciple, and explores what we mean by our Christian vocation*

### **Opening Activity**

Prepare six cards with the names of the people below, all of whom have different jobs or ministries, but all of whom are Christians.

Ask for volunteers to represent each person by holding the card. Then explain who they are, where they live and what they do.

- Sarah is a primary school teacher from Leeds.
- John works with young homeless people in Cardiff.
- Vivienne is a Children's Doctor on New Zealand.
- Kate is a computer programmer in Birmingham
- Patrick is a hermit monk in Norwich

Ask them to arrange themselves in order of who has the most difficult job and who has the easiest job.

See what they come up with. On the majority of occasions (although not always) they have said that the monk has the easiest job!

If that is the case explain to them that you think the monk may have the most difficult job otherwise everyone would want to be a monk! After all, who wants to make their life more difficult than it needs to be! If they chose the monk as having the most difficult 'job' then just say, 'Yes I think you're right, because...'

However, having said all of that, one thing about all of these people is that all of them are Christians, and all of them believe that they are doing the job, leading the life, that God has asked of them. I am sure that all of them have difficult times in their roles. I am sure that sometimes they may wish they were doing a different job, doing something else, somewhere else – because all of them have challenging times. But they have discovered where they feel they should be in life and, most importantly, where God wants them to be.



### ***We are called***

God calls all of us to serve him in different ways. Not all of us are called to be priest or monks. We can serve God and fulfil his will in lots of different ways. Some are called as teachers, others as lawyers, some as police men, others as plumbers...it's all about using the gifts God had given us, and living our life for him, and doing what he wants us to do. The word we describe of doing something that we think God wants us to do is 'Vocation.' The word 'vocation' comes from the Latin *vocare* meaning to call. All of us are called. It's up to us whether or not we listen, and if we listen, how we respond!

*To adapt this assembly to other Bible Passages, explore God's call to various individuals in the Bible, such as Abraham, Moses, Jeremiah, and so on*

Jesus said to his disciples on the night before he died, 'You did not choose me, I chose you. I appointed you to go on and bear fruit, fruit that will last.' (*John 15:16*) So, as you plan for your future, and make all kinds of decisions, and take all kinds of advice it may be a good idea to ask God where he wants us to be and what he wants us to do. We may not get an immediate answer, and it may not be easy to discover, but be open to what God wants you to do, to the plans he has for you.

### ***Reflection***

What are our plans for the future?

What kind of advice have we been given?

Do we think that God has a plan for us?

Have we ever asked God for what we should do?

How do we discover his will?

### ***Prayer***

God our Father,

the future is filled with so many uncertainties.

As we make look forward to the future

help us to make the right decisions for our way of life.



Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**