Many of the artworks we see around us in this exhibition show people and faces. In this section, many artworks use words and symbols to make us think about God and sacred ideas.

This beautiful artwork is a ‘word portrait’ of the Prophet Mohammed. Muslims believe the Prophet Mohammed is God’s messenger. The words in the centre describe what he looked like, so that people who read the words can imagine and think about him and all his perfect features and characteristics in their own personal ways.

Hilye
Signed by Hafiz Osman Efendi
Turkey, Istanbul, dated 1099 AH/1687–88 CE with later additions
Opaque watercolour and ink on paper mounted on leather
© Image courtesy of University of Michigan Library Isl. Ms. 238
When you think of God or a holy person, how would you describe them in words?

Create your own beautiful design and add your words as you think about this question and talk about it with your grown-up.