



## Collective worship

### Overview

#### *Gather, Engage, Respond, Send*



#### **Gathering- Prepare the sacred space**

**Prepare a sacred space: images, words, music, and lighting to remind us of the presence of God.)**

- Have prayer areas as a focal point to help pupils to focus during prayer using cloths, an image, photographs, painting, Book of the Gospels, crucifix, statue, lighted candle, special object, flowers etc. We can meet God in visual images and they can be a powerful catalyst for prayer. Remember quality and not quantity. Ask yourself, is it attractive, would it help me, is it relevant, does it reflect the theme, the liturgical year?
- Ensure liturgical colours on prayer areas (green for ordinary time, purple for Advent and Lent, white/gold for Christmas and Easter, red for apostles, martyrs. Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Pentecost, white for Our Lady)
- Use symbols of the season e.g. red poppy, autumn leaves, seas shells, and symbols of Baptism. God can be found in all things!
- Play reflective music – listen reflectively, use sign language, or sing as you gather
- Change the lighting to create a different atmosphere
- Light a candle – a sign of God's presence and love
- Try various ways of gathering: into a circle e.g. one hand on shoulder in front/ various seating patterns e.g. theatre style, circle, semi-circle, group, / Collect a class at a time/ Each class to bring their class candle or alternative symbol to a central display
- Repeat a line/ chant/ mantra e.g. joy, peace, love, Come Lord Jesus Come, (Advent) Peace on earth, (Christmas) I will follow you, (Lent) Jesus is risen, (Easter) Come Holy Spirit (Pentecost). A mantra is a holy word or phrase which is repeated often and can provide a precious moment of prayer
- Make the sign of the cross on the forehead, lips and heart – 'May Jesus be in my mind, on my lips and in my heart'
- Use breathing/ stilling routine – relax, concentrate on breathing. Breathe in God's peace. Breathe out any worries. Be still inside and out
- Pass something round to hold attention
- Picking up a pebble, picture etc on the way in
- Sound i.e. triangle/ bell
- Create a circle by feeding a rope or using a hula hoop so everyone is connected then stands or sits
- Sing
- Sit in an outside space
- Contribute an item to a display e.g. pebble, coin
- Set the scene
- Movement from silence/quiet to next stage
- Have a prayer board for prayer intentions. These intentions could be placed here at any time during a day and brought to the next time of prayer.
- Consider the class sending out an invitation to others to join them.



## Engage

**The Scriptures are a primary source of faith, a special sign of God's presence and should be given prominence.**

- Listen to a reading from the Old or New Testament (sometimes it is sufficient to present just a few sentences) or bible verse.
- ICT e.g. project a single image or a series of images to tell a story from the scriptures with key questions to consider: What do I see? What do I feel? What do I like?
- Prepare a PowerPoint of images and phrases with background music that makes the Scripture of the day relevant to the world we live in.
- Gospel Acclamation: Process and enthrone the Bible, elevate the Gospel, carry candles, stand to show respect, sing alleluia! '+Jesus be in my mind +on my lips + and in my heart'
- Mime the story as it is read
- Act out the story
- Sections narrated by pupils or 'part-speaking'
- Gospel story presented as a news report
- Use guided meditation. This is a way of praying with Scripture. Do a stilling exercise, invite the pupils to listen to the story and as they do to imagine they are someone in the story. What do they see, hear, did Jesus speak to them, what was he doing? etc.
- Ensure the reading has a message or theme
- Listen to reading of YouTube film
- Tell story in own words
- Use puppets to tell the story
- Use hymns and songs that tell the story
- Hot seat a character



## Response

**Remember that this is a special time to respond to the Word of God in prayer. Make sure that children are given quiet time to internalise the message and to respond within. If practical, consider using a symbolic action to express or accompany a prayerful response. Creative movement helps children to know that there are many ways to express praise, joy, sorrow, thanks, sadness and love.**

- Invite the children to talk silently to God about what they feel and what ideas they have. (If silence is difficult, play some quiet music in the background)
- Invite children to thank and praise God for his gifts quietly in their hearts
- Invite children to reflect upon the times when they remove themselves from God's presence, that they do not build up the kingdom of God. Ask for forgiveness and help
- Pray for the needs of others
- In some circumstances, encourage spontaneous prayer. Encourage this as a circle time type of activity and pass a heart, a stone etc. around the circle
- Use a litany style prayer 'For... we thank you God'. 'For the times.... We are sorry'
- Use prayerful signs/gestures/actions to accompany a prayer, song
- Use a mantra, a word or phrase to repeat. Pupils can choose their own
- Blessing with water or dipping the hands in water while music is played is a prayerful gesture
- Process with symbolic items
- Wash hand
- Use traditional prayers e.g. Lords prayer/School prayer
- Pass on a sign of peace (shake hands)
- Collective collage/artwork based on story
- Plant seeds
- Place a stone at the foot of a cross
- Drop a pebble in water
- Reflect and write on a leaf and make a prayer tree
- Light a candle
- Blessing with water/ oil
- Use touch e.g. hand on hand, shake hands, sign of peace, hold hands, link arms, clap hands
- On a large sheet of paper children could add their own paint stroke
- Destroy papers (reconciliation)
- Breaking of bread
- Respond using clay, drawing, painting etc
- Private response diary/prayer journal
- Write personal prayers on post-its (collate in class capture books)
- Use cut out shapes e.g. hearts, people, stars to write prayers on
- Posters
- Dance



### **Sending - Going forth**

Here children come to reflect on what they would like to hold on to, to understand and express how faith is lived out in the school community, at home, in the parish, the local and wider community. They identify ways of applying faith to life.

- Request to do something linked with the word e.g. prayer, deed, to pass something on
- Memento as a reminder e.g. card, shell, prayer, candle
- Mission through personal example i.e. forgiveness
- Spread the word (amongst others)
- Shake hands
- Ensure pupils follow through on what they are asked to do
- Words of commitment
- Reflect (at another time) on how their 'mission' has impacted on others
- Find a few moments in the day to say thank you to God
- Say a prayer for someone in need
- Tell your mum/dad you love her/him
- Care for God's world by picking up a piece of litter
- Remember to say please and thank you
- Greet someone with a smile
- Do something helpful at home
- Invite someone lonely or isolated to join you at break time
- 'Go forth!' Serve! Proclaim! Witness! Expectation!
- Make an internal promise
- Make a vocal promise
- Contribute to a class capture book of ideas

