

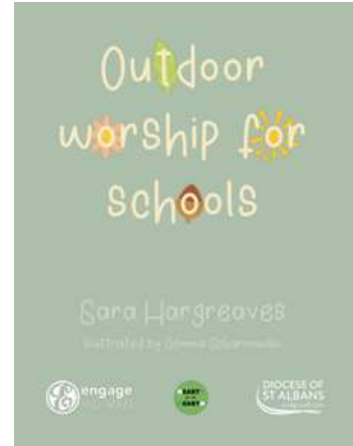
Class-based Worship:

3 ideas for Day 6

Idea 1: Taking Worship Outside

Why not use a specially designed outdoor worship plan from 'Outdoor worship for schools'? Plan Three, for instance, provides a meaningful opportunity to think more deeply about caring for the planet:

<https://tinyurl.com/478f64vh> (the password is the normal Heart for the Earth password).



Idea 2: Collective deliberation – 'How can we show a heart for the earth through caring for animals?'

Follow the normal gathering routine for class-based worship.

Remind the class how, in recent acts of worship, we have been exploring Genesis 1 to help us think about showing a 'Heart for the Earth'. Today, we are thinking about how we can show a Heart for the Earth through our thinking and actions towards animals.

Below are a number of statements for the class to consider through discussion – this could be through think-pair-share. You might like to use all of the questions or select a few. This could also be completed as a silent debate, with each statement being placed in the centre of A3 paper or larger for pupils to comment on, raise questions and respond to others' comments in the class. Adapt and amend the questions for your class.

- Many people hold the view that there is a hierarchy of life, where some species are viewed as better or more important than others. Humans are more important than apes; apes more than dogs; birds over insects etc. Is this view ok? In what ways might this be detrimental to the diversity of species and flourishing of the planet?
- In your view, how can we show a heart for the Earth through caring and championing for animals? What would make the biggest difference?
- 'Nature is a rich tapestry of different species, each with their own uniqueness.' What do you think to this analogy of 'tapestry'? What does it make you think of? How does it make you feel? (here is a picture which might be useful in explaining this idea of 'tapestry': <https://tinyurl.com/bdfmz4yb>)
- 'Every extinction erases a unique fingerprint of God'. Thoughts?
- 'We need to use our heads, hearts and hands to create a more sustainable future for us and animals. If one is missing, our efforts are limited'. Agree? Disagree? Bit of both?
- I would also like to say, ask, mention that...

Close with the following prayer (alternatively, ask if anyone would like to offer a spontaneous prayer, from the heart):

Dear God,

Thank you for the tapestry of life on earth

Help us to care for and champion all parts of creation, so that all on earth can flourish

Amen

Idea 3: Examen

Lead the class in a 'Heart for the Earth' inspired examen (see below). If the weather is favourable, why not do this outside?



PLUG-IN-AND-PLAY



Find a place to be still and silent: Ready yourself for reflection.

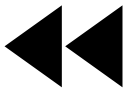
You might like to ask God to help you review your day so far.



Pause and be still: Think about the present.

Take some slow breaths.

What do you notice around you? What can you hear? What can you feel?
Spend some time being grateful for the world around you.



Rewind: Review your day so far.

How has your heart for the earth been seen today?

Has it been seen in your thoughts?

Has it been seen in your actions?

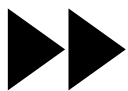
Spend a bit of time being thankful for the wonderful earth; if you'd like to, thank God for creation.



Were there moments where you didn't show a heart for the earth?

Whatever these moments were, remember that you are precious to God and nothing ever changes that. Think about what you might do differently should that situation occur again.

Is there anything you would you like to leave with God and say sorry for?



Fast forward: Imagine the future.

Think about the rest of the day. How might you show a heart for the earth? Is there anything you would like God to help you with?

If you'd like to, talk to God about it now and ask God to be with you through your day.



Play: Resolve to live well for the rest of the day.

What has been the main thing you have taken away from your reflection? How has it helped you as you continue your day?