

Class-based Worship:

3 ideas for Day 3

Idea 1: Examen

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

Idea 2: String Prayers/Reflections

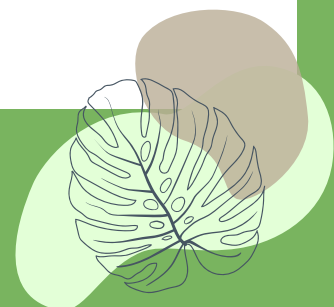
NB: this plan will work better when pupils have engaged with the first collective worship plan as part of the 'Day 3' instalment. This idea requires a ball of string (at least 10m long) and a small piece of ribbon per pupil to tie to it (including some extra ribbons for adults to model).

Follow the class' normal gathering routines for class-based worship.

Recap with the class that in worship recently we have been thinking about ecosystems ([Collective Worship Plan 1](#)). An ecosystem is a community of living things (such as plants and animals) living together within a particular environment. In an ecosystem, all organisms depend on and require each other; each has an important role to play (e.g. an oak tree provides food and a home for around 2,300 species). We thought about how this might link to the 'community of creation' worldview.

To continue pupil reflection, share the following four quotes with pupils. Ask them to consider:

- their view of each out of ten?
- their favourite?
- the most important for humans to consider?



Quotes

- 'We are members, not masters, of the planet'
- 'Treat others and the planet as you would like to be treated'
- 'All life is inter-connected and humankind is part of the network'[1]
- We are all a part of this bio-diversity. If one part suffers, so do all...'

Following reflection and class-discussion, offer pupils a chance to spiritually reflect through a string activity. Ask pupils to sit in a circle and pass the string round so that all pupils are holding a piece of it at the same time. Explain that this symbolises the inter-connected nature of all living things on the earth. Invite pupils to think about a prayer and/or hope that links to wildlife, plants and/or ecosystems. After sufficient time has been granted, invite students to take a ribbon and tie it to the piece of string. This ribbon is a represents their prayer and/or hope.

Invite pupils to look at all the prayers/reflections represented by the ribbons to see that there is a shared hope for the present, and future, of the earth. If you can, keep this string visible for a duration to extend students' spiritual reflection throughout the next week or two.

[1] Levy, N., Shreeve, D. and Harfiyah, H. Sharing Eden: Green teachings from Jews, Christians and Muslims (Kube: Markfield, p. 71)





PLUG-IN-AND-PLAY



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

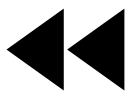
You might like to ask God to help you review your day so far.



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?

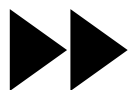
Spend a bit of time being thankful for the wonderful earth; if you'd like to, thank God for creation.



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?