

Class-based Worship

Week 4 – Promises

Idea One: pondering promises

Follow the normal gathering routines for class-based worship.

Remind the class that this week in collective worship, we've been thinking about promises. The promises that God made to Jacob, that God makes to humans, and those that we make to each other.

Invite pupil thoughts around the following questions:

- What is a promise?
- Do you think promises are important? Why? Why not?
- In this biblical narrative, why do you think God made the promise to Jacob of 'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go'?
- I wonder what you think they would the world be like if there were no promises, or if they were always broken?

Take the proforma of a ladder. On each rung, invite pupils to write a promise that will help build their relationship with either God or with other people. Invite them to reflect upon how you they could follow those promises for the rest of the day. If they'd like to, they can ask God to help them here.

Idea Two: creative responses

Below are some other ways to stimulate spiritual reflection on the theme of 'promises' following an engagement with the Jacob's ladder narrative. Follow the normal gathering routines for class-based worship and close with an opportunity for prayer.

- Using playdough or Lego, invite pupils to create a sculpture representing God's promise of 'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go'. I wonder what this promise means to you?
- Invite pupils to create a mini-'Hannah Dunnett' style artwork: this could be based on the promise God made to Jacob, or what the idea of 'promises' means to them. Examples of Hannah's work related to God's promises can be found here: <https://www.benandhannahdunnett.com/shop/art-prints/bible-verses/do-not-be-afraid-prints/>; <https://www.benandhannahdunnett.com/shop/art-prints/bible-verses/i-will-carry-you-framed-print/>