

KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

The worship plans in Week One of God in this Place set the ground for the spiritual reflection invited in subsequent weeks. After introducing God in this Place in this plan, the next plans introduce Jacob (Plan Two) and an opportunity to think about the places and spaces in which we are situated (and, for many, spaces/places in which God is working).

Gathering

Follow the school's normal gathering routines, using words of liturgy which are familiar to students and adults

or

Light a candle and offer the following prayer: 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you'. Response: *and also with you*. (To support pupil understanding of the Christian belief in God as Trinity here, why not light a single candle which has three wicks, lighting them in turn as each 'person' is acknowledged?)

Engagement

Introduce 'God in this Place', which is taking place across Diocesan schools over the next six weeks. This will be an opportunity to:

- celebrate who we are as a Church of England school;
- journey together as we explore the story of Jacob's dream in Genesis 28; and
- pray for our community as a Church of England school and our family of church schools in the Diocese.

Show **Introductory video** to Lent 2020. (<https://youtu.be/5zjXsokga20>)

Over the next six weeks, we will think about ourselves and our vision as a church school. We will think deeply about how we can flourish and help others to flourish, as well as praying for our family of 135 other church schools across the Diocese (show **map of diocesan schools** on slides).

Explain that we will be looking at the character of Jacob from the bible. As we will see from his story in the book of Genesis (the first book of the bible, found in what Christians refer to as the Old Testament), there are a number of themes that emerge from an encounter he has with God.

Week 2: Journeying through life

Jacob in the Bible had a lot of experiences, choices, decisions in his journey through life. What about our journeys? What has led us to this point, and what might shape our journeys going forward?

Week 3: Dreaming

We will explore Jacob's amazing dream, as well as considering our own dreams, hopes and visions.

Week 4: Promises

God made promises to Jacob in his dream. To what extent do these promises extend to us today? What might this mean for our school community?

Week 5: Worshipping

Where can God be worshipped? Jacob didn't expect to see God in that way, in that place.

Week 6: Journeying with God

Jacob's dream had a huge impact upon his life's journey. Will all we have looked at over the last six weeks affect our journeys?

Response

Draw the school community's attention to the schools' distinctive Christian vision. Explain the central part this plays in the life of the school – how it informs the 'why', 'what' and 'how' of school life.

I wonder how God is with us in this place?

Prayer

Lord, we thank you that you are in this place.

In our relationships...

In our learning...

In our banter...

In our happy times...

In our lowest...

As we support each other...

Both in school...and out...

In who we aspire to be...

In what we aspire to do...

In what we aspire to change...

In our shared life together...

Helping each other to flourish...

We pray that over the next six weeks you can help us to learn more about ourselves and you as we explore the story of Jacob's dream together. We pray for other schools in our diocesan family also, that they may grow in understanding alongside us.

Amen.

Sending

We are about to go on a spiritual journey. How might you prepare? How might you ready yourself for deep, spiritual reflection?