

## 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?)

Remind the school community of the 'God in this place' reflective journey we are starting. Explain that today we are going to think about the biblical character Jacob.

## Engagement

Explore the story of Jacob and Esau – birth through to Jacob claiming the birth right (Genesis 26: 34 – Genesis 28: 9) – using a preferred style (story telling, drama etc). You may wish to draw upon one of the following:

<https://tinyurl.com/uvm4gmp> (assemblies.org – sections 1-4 only)

<https://thebrickbible.com/esausbirthright/> and

<https://thebrickbible.com/jacobdeceivesisaac/> (The Lego Brick Bible)

In this story between the two brothers, selfishness prevailed. In his desire for power and wealth, Jacob cheated and deceived his father and brother, then fled to escape their anger.

Jacob made some wrong choices here. The story which follows as he leaves for Paddam Aram shows how God then works through Jacob's life to mend what had been broken and how he changes Jacob's journey through life.

## Response

Invite the school community to reflect on the following questions through discussion (e.g. think/pair/share) or individual reflection:

- How do you see selfishness in the world today?
- Have you ever desired to be seen as 'greater' or 'better' than someone else?
- I wonder whether you have ever deceived someone for your own gain? How did you feel after?
- Augustine/Martin Luther – 'sin is man curved in on himself'. Agree? Disagree? Bit of both?

Explain that we will look at what happens next in Jacob's story next week. Jacob wrestled with selfishness and failure in his journey, but Jacob came to understand that God was with him at every stage of life and loved him unconditionally.

## Sending

Prayer:

Let's just hold a moment of silence:

- I wonder what today's worship has made you think about? I wonder how it has made you feel?
- If you'd like to, offer your thoughts and feelings to God now. Know that God knows the things on your mind and heart at this time.