

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 using a preferred style – story telling, drama, YouTube video etc. You may wish to use one of the following:

<https://tinyurl.com/z4hskuz> (YouTube video)

<https://tinyurl.com/vrnmrkx> (dramatic poem)

<https://tinyurl.com/twm593z> (slides 1-12 only; stop before Jacob's dream)

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

What do you think went wrong between these twin brothers? What led to a recipe for disaster? Some examples are:

- the brothers were opposites in many ways – skills, personalities, tastes
- their parents disagreed on who they liked the best
- Jacob took advantage of Esau – he lied and cheated to get the birth-right

Jacob made some wrong choices here. The story which follows, as he leaves for his uncle's house to escape from Esau, shows how God then works through Jacob's life to mend what has been broken.

Response

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

- Do you agree with what Jacob did? Why/why not?
- If you were in Jacob's position, what would you have done?
- I wonder how Jacob felt as he left home for his uncle's house? He had claimed the birth right, but he had deceived his father and twin brother.
- I wonder whether we have ever deceived someone for our own gain? How did we feel after?

Explain that we will look at what happens next in Jacob's story next week. Jacob certainly came to understand that God was with him in his journey – even when Jacob failed to make right choices.

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.