

KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

The theme for the second week of 'God in this place' is 'Journeying through life'. The first two plans invite the school community to reflect upon Jacob's journey through life. The third plan offers an opportunity to consider the spiritual practice of labyrinths, and how they are (and can be) used to help people reflect upon their past and future.

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

Remind school community that this is the first themed week of 'God in this place'. Explain that the theme for the next three collective worships in this series is 'Journeying through life'. Watch VLOG 'Journeying through life' (https://youtu.be/wCJPlscBi_c).

'A journey where we're going to discover new things together'. Explain that over the next five weeks, we will be exploring different themes in the story of Jacob's Ladder in Genesis 28. This week, we will think about the impact of a vision he had on his life's journey.

But what is this story? When we last met Jacob, he had just deceived his father into giving him his older brother Esau's birthright (blessing and inheritance). Now let's see what happens next:

Tell the story of Jacob's ladder (Genesis 28: 10-22), using the downloadable summary sheet or the Brick Bible <https://thebrickbible.com/jacobs ladder/> (the slides move automatically).

Response

Think about your journey through life so far. Like Jacob, you will have had experiences and encounters that have shaped you to be the person you are today. Perhaps these have been unexpected.

I wonder what those unexpected moments have been where you have discovered new things about life? Yourself? God?

Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for our journeys – as individuals and as a school.

As we leave this place, help us to discover new things about life, ourselves and you.

Amen.

Sending

Invite the school community to continue thinking about their life journeys so far. What experiences and encounters have shaped you and your journey?