

Gathering

Select a focal image or props to hold pupil attention while gathering. E.g. landscape with trees & figures by Vincent Van Gogh, Small world trees, other pictures of woodland.

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?)

Introduce theme of 'Hopes and Dreams'. Ask pupils to silently reflect on what hopes and dreams they may have for this week... this month...this term...this year...by the age of 16...for what they want to achieve in their lives...

Engagement

1) Explain that today they will be experiencing a story about 'Three Trees'. Three trees who had their own hopes and dreams for their lives.

2) Tell the story of 'The Three Trees' using the attachment. Choose preferred method of delivery: storytelling, drama, video (the story can also be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_89klXvbhw (7 mins)).

3) Ask pupils to reflect on the story and consider how differently their hopes and dreams had turned out. They achieved more than they had ever hoped but the journey was different to what they had imagined, all part of God's plan!

4) Link to Bible Verse: 'For I know the plans I have for you' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' Jeremiah 29:11

Response

Time to Talk – chat to the person next to you, what were the hopes and dreams you silently reflected on at the beginning? Share some of them together.

Time to Think – Take a moment of quiet reflection, think about how your journey towards your dream may be different to what you imagine, ponder on challenges you may have to overcome. How might God help you on that journey?

Time to Pray – Use a prayer that is simple and perfect for the journey of life. Prayer is as Easy as 1, 2, 3:

Minute 1 – Think about the high point of the day/week, something really good and give God thanks.

Minute 2 – Think about a low point of the day/week, something bad that made you feel sad or worried. Ask God for help or forgiveness.

Minute 3 – Think about the future, tomorrow, next week or your dreams you've been reflecting on today. Ask God for special guidance on your journey.

(If you'd like to, you might like to use this flickering candle for the school community to watch as they reflect: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrDUTpeGW0A&t=27s>)

Sending

- 1) Recap the main messages – hopes and dream, the journey, trusting in God's plans. Reflect back to the Jeremiah Bible verse.
- 2) Link to the next CW – exploring a very important dream in the Bible (Jacob's Ladder)
- 3) Follow schools sending out routines – blessing blowing out the candle, music. Keep Bible Verse on screen as pupils leave.