

Gathering

Play 'Brother, sister let me serve you' as students enter: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JahFRDrSCs>

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?)

Welcome the students and explain that today they are going to be thinking about their private dreams – not the ones that they have when they're asleep, but the dreams that they cherish inside, as a hope for the future.

Engagement

Choose two students who are confident to read accounts of 'dreams for the future' - one from the POV of a refugee, and one from the POV of someone who hopes to work abroad. See examples on attached sheets which can be used (but even better if students can write their own dreams/hopes for their lives).

Leader: "thank you for sharing your stories. Let's think about those as we listen to the story of Jacob once again" (another student reads Genesis 28:10-22).

"I wonder what the connection between our two students and Jacob might be?" Give the students a few moments to think, and then take suggestions...

Share your own reflections on the connections, using this text if you'd prefer: "I think the strongest link is that dream- in his dream, Jacob dreamt that God promised to be with him and his family wherever they travelled. That was Mohammed's experience when he was travelling. And Esther doesn't have a faith, but she has a family that loves and supports her – who will always be in her heart, no matter how far away she goes. Mohammed's family had a dream of safety, and they've found it here. Esther dreams of the adventure of a new country, new language and community, and she knows her family will support her dream all the way. Jacob knew that his God was with him, and his dream, to eventually return to his estranged family, did come true – but that's another story."

Response

"Spend a few moments now, thinking of your dream. What would you like to become? How can you be a better person today, to help you on that journey?" Either give silent thinking time or even replay the reflective music whilst students ponder.

Sending

Prayer: Thank you that you are the God who leads us, who accompanies us, and the God who welcomes us home. Be with all those today who are travelling hopefully, and those who are arriving. May we hold onto our dreams for life, and be with us as we strive to achieve those dreams. Amen.

"As you go through today, remember your dream – I wonder how you can achieve it?"