

Gathering

This CW can be delivered in a traditional whole school format (A) or it can be delivered in a Seeing Anew style (B). If using B then pupils will be required to sit in mixed age groups of up to 8. (See Engaging Section and follow either A or B).

Show Jacob's Ladder by William Blake to hold pupils' attention while gathering (you could even invite pupils to study it closely – what can they spot and notice?).

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 pupils of previous CW on 'hopes and dreams', thinking about how God's plans can influence our journey through life. Explain that this happened to one man from the Bible, Jacob.

Engagement

Provide brief background to Jacob and Genesis Chapter 28 (some background notes are provided as an attachment).

Tell the story of Jacob's Dream (Genesis 28: 10-22) focusing in particular on Verses 10-12. Use preferred style – story telling, drama, YouTube video etc...

A

1) Discussion with person next to you. How was Jacob feeling before he settled down to sleep? How do you think he is feeling after his dream? Reflect on Jacob's journey, and that God is with him, guiding him.

2) Invite the school community to think about their own hopes and dreams. Use an adult or pupil scribe to record some examples of children's and adults' hopes and dreams on to a picture of a ladder on a flipchart.

Extension option (dependent on time) – ask pupils to suggest encouraging messages for each other and add around the outside of the ladder.

Resources: Ladder template, flip chart, pen

B

1) Discussion within groups - How was Jacob feeling before he settled down to sleep? How do you think he is feeling after his dream? Reflect on Jacob's journey, and that God is with him, guiding him.

2) Year 5/6 pupils to scribe each child's hopes and dreams on to the rungs of a ladder.

Extension option (dependent on time) – ask pupils to write encouraging messages to each other around the outside of the ladder. (Ladders can be collected and displayed.)

Resources: Ladder template (paper template in attachments), pencils

Response

Display the Bible verse - 'When I'm afraid I put my trust in you' Psalm 56:3

Time to Reflect – Jacob was very unsure about where he was headed and how his life was going to turn out before his dream. He may have been feeling quite frightened. Yet when he took time to rest, stop and be still he saw God at work in his life and knew he could trust the journey he was on. Invite the school community to reflect on the following questions:

- How often do you take time to stop and be still and think about your hopes and dreams?
- How will you keep going and looking forward when your dreams seem impossible?

Time to Pray – The 5 Finger Daily Examen: A prayer to help us stop, reflect, be grateful and look to the future (see document in attachments).

Sending

1) Recap the main messages – hopes and dreams are exciting, all part of life's journey and with God's help and guidance we can achieve so many wonderful things!

2) Follow school's sending out routines – blessing, blowing out the candle, music etc. Keep Bible verse on screen as pupils leave.