

KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

The theme for the fourth week of 'God in this place' is 'promises'. During Jacob's journey and dream, he received some encouraging words and promises from God – *I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go*. Each collective worship plan in this instalment provides an opportunity for the school community to reflect deeply on themes of promises and trust in their own lives.

Gathering

Play 'Trust in You' by Lauren Daigle as the school community enters:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_aVFVveJNs.

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?)

Recap our 'God in this place' journey so far – that we have explored themes of 'journeying through life' and 'dreams' through the story of Jacob's Ladder in Genesis 28. This week, we will be drawing upon this narrative to help us think about 'promises'.

Engagement

- 1) I wonder what the most amazing thing you've ever been told is? I wonder what the most encouraging words you have ever heard have been?
- 2) Show on the board (and/or through video links below) a few inspirational or encouraging quotes from people, books or films. Some examples are found on the PowerPoint.
 - Be the change you want to see in the world. (Gandhi)
 - We are like broken pots – it is when we are broken our light shines brightest.
 - Carpe Diem – seize the day!
 - Dumbledore – 'Not our abilities that make us who we truly are, but our choices' (From 2:30-3:15 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uM8ZfBIMdQ>)
 - Lion King – 'Learn from the past' (Until 0:41 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZfGTL2PY3E>)
 - Finding Nemo – 'Keep on swimming, keep on swimming...' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Hkn-LSh7es>)
- 3) For Jacob, during his journey and dream, he had some himself some encouraging words and promises from God.

- I will give your descendants this land, and they will spread north, south, east and west;
- All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your children;
- I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and;
- I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.

4) Watch **VLOG – Week 4** (<https://youtu.be/C14P6pz74q8>)

Response

Display the bible verse: *'I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go'* (Genesis 28: 15).

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 in God's promises.

Invite the school community to reflect on the following questions:

- Why do you think Jacob was encouraged by this promise?
- What promises do you base your life on? What or whose words encourage you?

Sending

Offer a time of prayer using the prayer below. Invite the school community, to say 'Amen' at the end if they'd like to make the prayer their own. *Alternatively, why not offer the opportunity for a student to offer a spontaneous prayer based on what we have been thinking about in this act of collective worship?*

Prayer

God

We thank you for the promises and words of encouragement you gave Jacob

We thank you for your promises to us today

That you will be with us and watch over us wherever we go

May we be mindful that you are with us in this place

Amen

Follow normal sending out routines – blessing, blowing out the candle, music etc.