

KEY CONCEPT/MESSAGE:

The theme for the fifth week of 'God in this place' is 'worship'. During Jacob's journey and dream, he increasingly came to realise that worship can take place at any time, any place; it's not restricted to certain places or times. Each of the collective worship plans in this instalment provide an opportunity for the school community to reflect upon worship ('showing worth') – what, why, when, where and how.

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?)

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

Engagement

- 1) "We have collective worship every day, but what does 'worship' mean? What images come into your head when you hear the word worship?" Take some ideas.
- 2) Explain that 'worship' comes from the Anglo-Saxon word 'worthshippe'. It is showing worth to something or someone. "I wonder what people give the most worth to in the world today? Money? Success? Family? Football? Environment?"
- 3) Does this understanding of 'worship' differ to our initial ideas?
- 4) "For many people, worship is showing worth to God. Where can this type of worship take place?" Take ideas.
- 5) Is it just in places of worship, such as a church, or school hall? How could actions on the playground, how someone treat others or the planet etc. also be seen as showing worth to God?
- 6) Watch **VLOG – Week 5** (<https://youtu.be/-Funt-aatSs>)

Response

- 7) Show bible verse on board: When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."
- 8) Jacob had 'boxed' God. He had decided that God could be found at certain times and places, but was not with him at other times of his life. Through his dream, Jacob began to realise that God was with him in all parts of his life.

9) "I wonder: What do we show to most worth to as a school? Where is worship happening in the school? Is it just seen when we meet together like this? Or can worship be seen at other times and places?"

10) Invite pupils and adults, if they would like to, to join in with this prayer:

God,

Thank you for being with us at all times and in all places

Help us to worship you with all we think, say and do

Amen

Sending

11) Explain that we will look at worship in further detail in future acts of collective worship. Invite pupils to reflect on the questions above as they go through school and home life over the coming week.

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