

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?)

- 1) Question: When you go on holiday what do you pack? If you had to leave home in a hurry, what would you pack?
- 2) "Jacob set off on his long journey away from his elder brother, Esau, who hated him for taking his father's blessing which should have been his as the first born. So he was rather afraid. He needed to get out quick, but he was going to have to make a long journey to his distant family headed by his distant uncle Laban whom he did not know."
Resources on PPoint: Pictures of desert caravans with camels loaded with luggage. Map of Israel in the days of Genesis / Exodus to give an idea of length of Jacob's journey
- 3) What would you pack on your camel to take? Given that you have to eat and drink and that the journey will take a long time. What do you think are the most important items he could take? In the end, one of the most important things Jacob could take was not an item, but rather a skill, which meant that he could help earn his keep in his new family.

Genesis 29:9-10: When Jacob reached his distant family he was able to help look after their sheep because he had the skills of being a shepherd which he had taken with him. That got him noticed by one of the daughters of his distant relative (Rachel), and she brought Jacob to her father's notice, and so into the safety of his new family.

Engagement

- 4) Question: What skill(s) do you have that you think might help you on your journey of life?
"To go on a journey of life is a bit different to Jacob's long journey on camels; however, it is just as important a journey and a bit like Jacob we have no choice but to make it, and a bit like Jacob we don't know quite how it will end."
- 5) "The luggage that we carry on our journey of life we carry within us, just like a skill. Some of that luggage can be useful, some of it can just get in the way. This kind of "inside" luggage we call values. Some values can be useful and help us along our journey, but some values can just get in the way and can cause us to stumble on the way."
- 6) Action: "Let's list some good values that are worth making sure we take with us on our journey of life, and let's also list some bad values that we could with just throwing down the nearest well."

Response

- 7) "The most important journey we will ever make is the journey of our life, so the luggage values we take with us are very important" Question: What do you think is the most important value for you? What positive values do you want to take on your life journey?
- 8) Close with an invitation to prayerful reflection. If you'd like to, why not ask if a pupil would like to offer a prayer from the heart based on what they've thought about this worship?

Sending

- 9) "We have been on quite the journey over 'God in this Place'. We have explored the story of Jacob's dream and thought about his journey, dreams, promises and worship as well as ours. Hopefully, like Jacob, we've changed to as we've had time to explore and reflect together.

To finish 'God in this Place', let's watch the Outro Video." Play **Outro Video**

<https://youtu.be/NCotrY75qqY>