

Class-based Worship:

3 ideas for Day 2

Idea 1: Examen

Lead the class in a 'Heart for the Earth' inspired examen (see end of this document for guide). If the weather is favourable, why not do this outside?

Idea 2: Ponder the ripples of our actions

Equipment: you will need a large container (such as a bowl or bucket) to fill with water to almost the top.

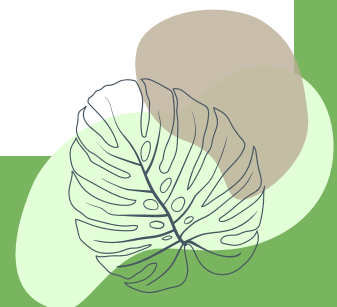
Start with the normal gathering routines for class-based worship. Remind the class how, in recent acts of worship, we have been exploring Genesis 1 to help us think about showing a 'Heart for the Earth'.

Sit in a circle on the floor, with the large container of water in the middle. Explain that during our act of worship today, will we be thinking about the 'ripple effect' our use of water has.

Using a strategy such as 'think, pair, share', invite pupils to generate ideas to the following questions:

- How do people show a heart for the earth through wise use of water? (e.g. boiling only what need in kettle, not leaving tap running whilst brushing teeth)
- What are the opposite of these – unwise uses of water?

Explain that our choices in how we use water has a 'ripple effect'. When we use water wisely, it reduces the amount of water that needs to be cleaned and the energy required to clean it (tap the top of the water to show a ripple).



On the other hand, if we choose not to use water responsibly, this has an impact on the amount of clean water available for others and the amount of energy needed to heat (in the case of kettles, showers and baths) and clean water at water treatment centres (again, tap the top of the water to show a ripple). I wonder what 'ripple effect' your use of water has? How positive is it?

Close with the following prayer (alternatively, ask if anyone would like to offer a spontaneous prayer, from the heart):

Dear God,

Thank you for the gift of water which fills the Earth

Help us to be responsible users of it and show our heart for the Earth through using it wisely

Amen

In drawing the act of worship to a close, invite pupils to continue pondering how they can show a heart for the Earth through grateful and wise use of water any time they...

- ...use running water (to wash hands, make a drink, brush teeth etc.) and/or
- ...drink from their water bottle. Pupils could even place a sticker on their water bottle (with a message or an image on, such as a heart with the earth in) as a reminder to show a heart for the earth through both gratitude (of having water to drink) and positive action to use water wisely for the flourishing of all creation

Idea 3: Reflect upon the wonder of water outside

With appropriate weather, take worship outdoors to give an opportunity for pupils to reflect upon the wonder of water. Start with the normal gathering routines for class-based worship and then explore one of the following ideas for spiritual reflection below:



Cloud watching: give time for pupils to watch the clouds. Ponder how amazing they are – different shapes, sizes, heights. Reflect how they are just one part of the incredible water cycle: water vapour collects as clouds and falls as rain which provides the land, life and us with much needed water which then, when evaporated, returns to form clouds again. Read Psalm 104: 24 (The Message), inviting pupils to spend a moment reflecting on those words as they look at the clouds. If they'd like to, invite them to offer some silent prayers of thanks to God for creation:

What a wildly wonderful world, God!

You made it all, with Wisdom...

made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.

(Ps. 104: 24)



Contemplate the wonder of water: If it has recently rained, invite pupils to explore the evidence of this rain outside. Can they see...raindrops on leaves and how they move when the leaf is touched? ...their own reflection in puddles? ...how different surfaces now feel different because of the rain?

Perhaps, if it's still raining slightly, you could invite pupils to be still and listen to the rain (or, as one poet, describes, the 'song the raindrops sing').

After a few minutes of open exploration, bring the class back together for a moment of silent reflection on the wonder of water. If they'd like to, they can offer thanks to God. Why not ask if anyone would like to offer a spontaneous prayer from the heart? Then, pose the following question to close worship: 'How will you show a heart for the earth through an appreciation of water today?'



PLUG-IN-AND-PLAY



Find a place to be still and silent: Ready yourself for reflection.

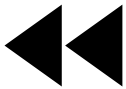
You might like to ask God to help you review your day so far.



Pause and be still: Think about the present.

Take some slow breaths.

What do you notice around you? What can you hear? What can you feel?
Spend some time being grateful for the world around you.



Rewind: Review your day so far.

How has your heart for the earth been seen today?

Has it been seen in your thoughts?

Has it been seen in your actions?

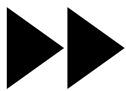
Spend a bit of time being thankful for the wonderful earth; if you'd like to, thank God for creation.



Were there moments where you didn't show a heart for the earth?

Whatever these moments were, remember that you are precious to God and nothing ever changes that. Think about what you might do differently should that situation occur again.

Is there anything you would you like to leave with God and say sorry for?



Fast forward: Imagine the future.

Think about the rest of the day. How might you show a heart for the earth? Is there anything you would like God to help you with?

If you'd like to, talk to God about it now and ask God to be with you through your day.



Play: Resolve to live well for the rest of the day.

What has been the main thing you have taken away from your reflection? How has it helped you as you continue your day?