

Autumn 2 Worship



Themes
Week 1 - Light – you are the light of the world
Week 2 - Interfaith week – light across the faiths
Week 3 - Gabriel and Mary
Week 4 - Host of Angels and the Shepherds
Week 5 - Three Gifts
Week 6 - Thanksgiving

Light	
<p>Weekly bible focus: Matthew 5:</p> <p>14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.</p> <p> Light Classroom worship.pptx</p>	<p>Reflection ideas for the classroom or outdoor area</p>
<p>Monday</p> <p> Windows Windows are for looking out onto God's world and being inspired by its wonders.</p>	<p>Gathering</p> <p>Once everyone is calm and the space is set up ready for worship you may want to start by lighting a candle and saying / signing a greeting.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and also with you</p> <p>Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you and also, with you.</p> <p>Lord, open our lips</p> <p></p> <p>Create an area that includes different types of lights and also images of different lights (e.g. lighthouses, torches, street lights, headlights, miners' lamps...) Also include images of people 'shining their lights' by helping others or doing something kind or useful.</p>

<p>and we shall praise your name.</p> <p>This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.</p> <p>We meet in the name of God: God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit: God is one.</p> <p>Let us worship God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Engage Read Matthew 5:</p> <p>14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.</p> <p>Or watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze7w3-BL3OM This gives a good context to this Bible passage https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUFOP8nhsRY</p> <p>Explain: Often, we think of Jesus as the Light of the World but in this Bible passage Jesus calls us all to be lights. He says that we should be like towns on top of the hill – shining our lights to all.</p> <p>Why is it important not to hide a light under a bowl? Is the light of any use there?</p> <p>What do you think this is saying to us?</p> <p>Going deeper Sometimes we tell people to let your light shine and not keep your talents hidden when we want them to perform well or do their best. This attitude can sometimes lead to a very proud and boastful approach to life.</p> <p>Read the passage carefully – what are the ‘lights’ that Jesus is referring to?</p>	<p>NB the emphasis of this passage is the fact that WE are lights of the world and are called to shine that light in a way that everyone can see it.</p> <p>Have a number of card light bulbs cut out that pupils can write (or draw) their thoughts and prayers on them</p>  <p>Links to worship songs:</p> <p>My Lighthouse https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeJvKkBV6rY</p> <p>This Little Light of Mine https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKkbIZtqhyQ</p> <p>OR https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ty9bZXN4uWA</p> <p>This Little Light of Mine Dance Christmas Dance Song Easy Moves 2020 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdsPbE9awKY</p>
--	--

	<p>And what is the reason that Jesus gives for us to ‘Shine our Lights’?</p> <p>Jesus suggests that whatever we do it should be so that God is honoured. How do you feel about that? For some this will be very important for others it will not mean anything. Whatever our personal beliefs – the important thing is the attitude with which we do things. We shouldn’t be doing good things just to make us look good (so often politicians or people in the public eye are accused of this) but instead we should do all that we do with a humble or servant like heart.</p> <p>What do you think about this? How do you treat others when we are less proud and humbler? How does this help to make the world a better place for everyone?</p> <p>Respond Encourage the pupils to respond with their own prayers first and then if appropriate use the Lord’s prayer.</p> <p>You may want to write prayers or responses onto the light bulbs.</p> <p>Our Father, in heaven, Holy is your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our sins, As we forgive those who sin against us, And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.</p> <p>Sending/Blessing “Sending” is the completion of the worship. When your worship in the hall comes to a conclusion there is literally a “sending”, as people exit and go back to their classrooms—how you follow the same pattern in the classroom will depend on how you prepared and gathered for worship.</p> <p>Blessing examples: Go out into the world in peace. Be brave. Don't repay evil with evil. But always seek what is good. Lend your strength to those who are weak. Support those who are in need. Respect everyone. May God</p>
--	--

	<p>bless you, And may you be a blessing to our community, and to our world.</p> <p>For each step that I might take Be my guide, O Lord of life For each load that I might bear Be my strength, O Lord of life For each mountain I might face Be my power, O Lord of life For each danger that I might come across Be my safety, O Lord of life For each place where I might rest Be my peace, O Lord of life For each sunrise and sunset Be my joy, O Lord of life God is great! God is good! Let us thank Him For this time</p>	
Tuesday	<p>Gathering</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Engaging</p> <p>We will be thinking today about what it can look like when we let our lights shine...</p> <p>Watch – unsung hero https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaWA2GbcnJU</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Jonah and the Whale – Give a Little Love https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0abYKwRWIU</p> <p>How are these people allowing their lights to shine each day? Is there anything here that you couldn't do? Are they expecting anything back in return?</p> <p>Responding</p> <p>Take some time to think about the people that have helped you. You could write prayers of thanks or simply write their names on a lightbulb.</p> <p>Spend some quiet time thinking of these people.</p> <p>Consider awarding 'Unsung Heroes Award' to people either in your class, your school, or your local community</p>	 <p>Unsung Heroes Award</p>

	<p>Sending As above</p>	
Wednesday  Doors Doors are for walking through in order to then act or respond in some way; it might mean moving on, making choices, doing something creative or purposeful in response.	<p>Gathering As above</p> <p>Engaging Recap on what we have been talking about so far this week.</p> <p>Jesus called us to be a light of the world. Think about the things that we saw in the film clips yesterday.</p> <p>What things could you do to let your light shine today?</p> <p>We often think of heroes as big and brave and in your face but in fact we can all be a hero to someone today.</p> <p>Take some time to think about what your attitude is going to be like today.</p> <p>Responding Consider setting up a reverse advent calendar for the class to take part in leading up to Christmas. This could be linked with the foodbank or another local or international charity.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42069381</p> <p>Or an Acts of Kindness Advent Calendar</p> <p>Or A Christingle that lasts You will need: tangerines or oranges; red tape or ribbon; sticky tape; sharp knives; an apple corer; cocktail sticks; tin foil; small sweets or dried fruit; some sort of small Play-Doh sculpture of a human or other flat representation of a person</p> <p>Make your own Christingle. Stick the red tape or ribbon around the tangerine or orange. Slice off a small section from the base so that the tangerine or orange stands up on its own. Using an apple corer, create a space where a candle could go into the top of the fruit. Put the four cocktail sticks into the orange or tangerine, each bearing some fruit or small sweets, etc. Sculpt your human figure from clay or Play-Doh or cut out a cardboard figure.</p>	 <p>WE CAN'T HELP everyone BUT EVERYONE CAN HELP someone.</p> <p>{Ronald Reagan}</p> 

	<p>Talk about the symbols of the Christingle: God's red ribbon of love around the world and God's good gifts in creation. But this Christingle is not complete. God sent Jesus not just for a one-off visit, but rather God planned by the Holy Spirit to pass on his light to each and every one of us in every place. The light of the Christingle candle can go on forever if we become the candles! Add the human figure to your Christingle in the place the candle would normally go. We are to be the light now that brings God's love and healing to the world.</p> <p>Sending As above</p>	
<p>Thursday –</p> <p>Meditation</p> 	<p>Use the Meditation resource alongside the Spiritual Encounters – bible based meditation teacher's pack: http://www.ldbe.co.uk/about/guidance-resources/worship-and-meditation/</p> <p>(This can be adapted for use with all ages)</p> <p>You may want to use the following reflection:</p>	
<p>Friday –</p> <p>Celebration</p> 	<p>Take this time to celebrate what has happened during the week – you may want to give out awards. If possible join the bubbles using Zoom or Teams so that the whole school can come together in a time of celebration.</p> <p>Remember that this should also be a time of worship and celebration so begin with a gathering, include a prayer, a blessing, and a song of celebration.</p>	

Gabriel & Mary		
Weekly bible focus: Luke 1: 26-38		Reflection ideas for the classroom or outdoor area
 Gabriel & Mary Classroom worship.pr		
Monday  Windows Windows are for looking out onto God's world and being inspired by its wonders.	<p>Gathering</p> <p>Once everyone is calm and the space is set up ready for worship you may want to start by lighting a candle and saying / signing a greeting.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Christ the light of the world is here <i>Lord Jesus shine on us.</i></p> <p>Grace, mercy and peace be with you and also with you.</p> <p>Lord, open our lips and we shall praise your name.</p> <p>This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.</p> <p>The Lord is with us Let us praise his name together.</p> <p>Engage</p> <p>Read Luke 1:26-38</p> <p>²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."</p> <p>²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."</p> <p>³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called [b] the Son of God.</p>	 <p>Hopes & Dreams</p> <p>Equipment: Paper strips, felt tip pens, sticky tape & scissors or a stapler. Print-out of the conversation between the angel and Mary.</p> <p>Set-up: Start a few paper chains off, perhaps inside a gazebo, and place the rest of the equipment close by.</p> <p>Suggested Instructions: Read the conversation between Mary and the angel Gabriel. Think about what the angel said, 'nothing is impossible with God.' Think about your hopes and dreams, however impossible they may feel. If you want to, you can write or draw them onto strips of paper, and then add them to the paper chain.</p> <p>Links to worship songs: Angels we have heard on high</p>

<p>³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.</p> <p>You could also watch:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KT_cHi8QJMw&t=6s</p> <p>Explain:</p> <p>This part of the Christmas story, where the angel Gabriel visits Mary, is often called ‘The Annunciation’. Gabriel arrives to make an important announcement to Mary about her future.</p> <p>How do you think Mary felt?</p> <p>How would you have gone about telling someone that they were about to become the mother of God’s son?</p> <p>‘Do not be afraid!’ – this seems to be the standard opening line for angels! Do you think we portray angels accurately? Look at some different paintings of angels and see if you agree with the artist’s ideas.</p> <p>Going deeper:</p> <p>After Gabriel had made his announcement to Mary, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth was also expecting a baby and that baby would grow up to be John the Baptist.</p> <p>What do you think Mary said to Elizabeth about her news?</p> <p>Do you think she was panicking? Worried? Excited?</p> <p>Mary Praised God</p> <p>This part of the Bible is sometimes called The Magnificat. It is said and even sung in churches. See if you can work out Mary’s feelings from the words she says.</p> <p>⁴⁶ Then Mary said, “My soul praises the Lord; ⁴⁷ my heart is happy because God is my Saviour. ⁴⁸ I am not important, but God has shown his care for me, his servant girl. From now on, all people will say that I am blessed,</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VutfWYmJSwg&list=PLz2u9XXowozCWhD-TmvhkVOp1mwXqlAgi&index=7</p> <p>O What a Glorious Night https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aGLV5CfoTU</p> <p>Sent from above https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tep-97o2kL4</p> <p>Like A Candle Flame https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGAXIGBB10M</p>
---	---

⁴⁹ because the Powerful One has done great things for me.
His name is holy.
⁵⁰ God will always give mercy to those who worship him.
⁵¹ God's arm is strong.
He scatters the people who are proud and think great things about themselves.
⁵² God brings down rulers from their thrones, and he raises up the humble.
⁵³ God fills the hungry with good things, but he sends the rich away with nothing.
⁵⁴ God has helped his people Israel who serve him.
He gave them his mercy.
⁵⁵ God has done what he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his children forever."

Respond

Encourage the pupils to respond with their own prayers first and then if appropriate use the Lord's prayer.

Our Father, in heaven,
Holy is your name.
Your Kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Sending/Blessing

"Sending" is the completion of the worship. When your worship in the hall comes to a conclusion there is literally a "sending", as people exit and go back to their classrooms—how you follow the same pattern in the classroom will depend on how you prepared and gathered for worship.

Blessing examples:

We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.
Amen

The Lord bless us and watch over us, the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us, the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. **Amen**

	<p>May the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts. <i>Amen.</i></p>	
Tuesday	<p>Gathering As above</p> <p>Engaging We will be thinking today about the qualities in a person that God might use...</p> <p>Remember 'The Magnificat' from worship yesterday?</p> <p>What type of person do you think Mary was? Did God choose a rich and powerful woman to be the mother of his son? Can you find some clues in Mary's song of praise that tell us what she was like?</p> <p>Responding Have you ever doubted that you have got the ability to achieve everything you want to? Mary was young and from a humble background. God saw her heart and used her in the most incredible way.</p> <p>What are your hopes and dreams? Think and reflect on them now.</p> <p>Sending As above</p>	
Wednesday	<p>Gathering As above</p> <p>Engaging Mary Did You Know? Listen to the song by Pentatonix https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZVjXsf_7al</p> <p>Could Mary have possibly fully understood the impact that her baby was going to have on the world?</p> <p>Listen to the words of the song. What else would you tell Mary about who her son would grow up to be? What would he do? How would he impact the world? Do you think she would be amazed to know that we are still talking about him today?</p> <p>Responding Think about the people who have helped you so far in your life. Your family, friends, teachers... Do they know how they have helped you? Do they know</p>	

	<p>the impact they have had on you? Maybe you could tell them.</p> <p>Perhaps someone has been a good friend to you and made you feel cared for...why don't you tell them?</p> <p>Perhaps a teacher has helped give you more confidence in your learning...why don't you tell them?</p> <p>Perhaps someone in your family has made you feel loved and secure...why don't you tell them?</p> <p>Ask them...did you know?</p>	
Thursday – Meditation 	<p>Use the Meditation resource alongside the Spiritual Encounters – bible based meditation teacher's pack: http://www.ldbe.co.uk/about/guidance-resources/worship-and-meditation/</p> <p>(This can be adapted for use with all ages)</p> <p>You may want to use the following reflection:</p>	
Friday – Celebration 	<p>Take this time to celebrate what has happened during the week – you may want to give out awards. If possible join the bubbles using Zoom or Teams so that the whole school can come together in a time of celebration.</p> <p>Remember that this should also be a time of worship and celebration so begin with a gathering, include a prayer, a blessing, and a song of celebration.</p>	 

Host of Angels and the Shepherds	
Weekly bible focus: Luke 2:8-20	Reflection ideas for the classroom or outdoor area
<p>Monday Gathering</p> <p>Windows Windows are for looking out onto God's world and being inspired by its wonders.</p> <p>Once everyone is calm and the space is set up ready for worship you may want to start by lighting a candle and saying / signing a greeting.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and also with you</p> <p>Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you and also, with you.</p> <p>Lord, open our lips and we shall praise your name.</p> <p>This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.</p> <p>We meet in the name of God:</p>	<p>Shepherds on the Hill</p> <p>World Map</p> <p>Equipment: Felt tip pens, post-it notes, world map, cushions.</p> <p>Set-up: Put the world map on the floor and place the cushions, pens and Post-its around it.</p> <p>Suggested Instructions: Think about how God chose to share the news about the birth of Jesus with shepherds first, people who weren't considered important at that time. Think about people in our world that might not be considered important. If you want to, you can write a thought or prayer for them onto a Post-it note and stick it onto the map.</p> <p>Links to worship songs:</p> <p>Angels we have heard on high https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VutfWYmJSwg&list=PLz2u9XXowozCWhD-TmvhkVOp1mwXqlAgi&index=7</p> <p>O What a Glorious Night https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aGLV5CfoTU</p> <p>Sent from above</p>

God the Father,	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tep-97o2kL4
God the Son,	
God the Spirit:	Like A Candle Flame
God is one.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGAXIGBB10M
Let us worship God:	The Lord's My Shepherd
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=upRoR7ej9Ns
Engage	
If the Queen planned to announce that there would be a new King, who would she tell first?	
Share your ideas and look at some of the people that she might announce the news to first.	
Read	
Luke 2:8-20	
⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'	
¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,	
¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'	
¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see	

this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Or watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGak3d7HOck>

Explain:

Shepherds were not important people in society at the time that Jesus was born.

In fact, they were not just ordinary, they were the lowest of the low!

They spent all of their time with smelly sheep and, as a result, were not popular with others.

So, why did God choose a bunch of shepherds to be the first group of people to hear about his son's birth?

Why do you think we can be encouraged that God chose the shepherds to hear the good news first?

What does this tell us about God?

Respond

Reflect and consider God's choice of people to be the first to hear the news

about the birth of his son. We know that the shepherds were not considered important.

Think about the people in our nation and our world who are not considered important. (Link to World Map activity above). Remember them in your prayers.

Our Father, in heaven,

Holy is your name.

Your Kingdom come,

Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our sins,

As we forgive those who sin against us,

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

Amen.

Sending/Blessing

“Sending” is the completion of the worship. When your worship in the hall comes to a conclusion there is literally a “sending”, as people exit and go back to their classrooms—how you follow the same pattern in the classroom will depend on how you prepared and gathered for worship.

Blessing examples:

May God’s blessing surround us today

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Tuesday	<p>Gathering</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Mirrors</p> <p>Mirrors are for looking into and reflecting upon things, either alone or together. Mirrors often help us to see things more clearly.</p> <p>Engaging</p> <p>John 10:14-15</p> <p>The Good Shepherd</p> <p>¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and my sheep know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I give my life for the sheep.</p> <p>Psalm 23:1-4</p> <p>The Lord is my shepherd. I have everything I need. ² He gives me rest in green pastures. He leads me to calm water. ³ He gives me new strength. For the good of his name, he leads me on paths that are right. ⁴ Even if I walk through a very dark valley, I will not be afraid because you are with me.</p>
---------	---

	<p>Your rod and your shepherd's staff comfort me.</p> <p>Isn't it interesting that the shepherd is important in other parts of the Bible too?</p> <p>King David, in his Psalm, wrote about God being like a shepherd to him.</p> <p>Jesus, as an adult, spoke about being the Good Shepherd.</p> <p>Think: What does a shepherd do? Why do you think David and Jesus used the picture of a shepherd? What does it tell us about God/Jesus?</p> <p>Why do you think we might need a shepherd?</p>
	<p>Responding</p> <p>Think about times when you might need a Shepherd to guide and protect you.</p> <p>Who can you turn to in these times?</p> <p>Take some time to pause and reflect.</p>
	<p>Sending</p> <p>As above</p>
Wednesday Doors	<p>Gathering</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Doors are for walking through in order to then act or respond in some way; it might mean moving on, making choices, doing</p> <p>Engaging</p> <p>Re-read the part of the passage that focuses on the host of angels.</p> <p>⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I</p>

<p>something creative or purposeful in response.</p>	<p>bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.</p> <p>¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,</p> <p>¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.'</p> <p>Can you imagine a better way to receive joyful good news?!</p> <p>Just imagine, you are minding your own business, taking care of your sheep and suddenly an incredible choir of angels appears with a message of hope and joy! How would it feel? What would it sound like?</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NlrMzbdP2X0</p>
	<p>Responding</p> <p>What do you think of when someone mentions 'news'? At the moment, the news seems to be full of very worrying stories.</p> <p>It is so uplifting when we hear good news. Think back to the daily news updates we had on Captain Tom and his fundraising walk – it lifted everyone's spirits and we were all excited to hear how much money he had raised for the NHS.</p> <p>https://www.goodgoodgood.co/goodnewspaper</p> <p>https://thehappynewspaper.com/</p> <p>See <i>goodnews_movement</i> on social media.</p> <p>Could you set up a good news station in your classroom? Encourage everyone to</p>

	<p>share their good news and watch how it brings joy and uplifts everyone.</p> <p>Sending</p> <p>As above</p>
Thursday Meditation	<p>Use the Meditation resource alongside the Spiritual Encounters – bible based meditation teacher's pack: http://www.ldbe.co.uk/about/guidance-resources/worship-and-meditation/</p> <p>(This can be adapted for use with all ages)</p> <p>You may want to use the following reflection:</p>
Friday – Celebration	<p>Take this time to celebrate what has happened during the week – you may want to give out awards. If possible join the bubbles using Zoom or Teams so that the whole school can come together in a time of celebration.</p> <p>Remember that this should also be a time of worship and celebration so begin with a gathering, include a prayer, a blessing, and a song of celebration.</p>

Three Gifts		
Weekly bible focus: Matthew 2: 1-12		Reflection ideas for the classroom or outdoor area
<p>Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect and wrap three gifts – ensure that they are not appropriate for a baby that would be similar to the gifts given to Jesus by the Wise Men (perfume/aftershave, incense/oil burner jewellery) Ask children/families to bring in a small item to add to a Christmas gift box for the homeless – toothbrush, toothpaste, soap etc 		 Three Gifts Classroom worship.ppt
Monday  Windows Windows are for looking out onto God's world and being inspired by its wonders.	<p>Gathering</p> <p>Once everyone is calm and the space is set up ready for worship you may want to start by lighting a candle.</p> <p>Light the candle with these words: <i>As we come together, we light this candle. If you are Christian, you may think the light is like Jesus, shining out everywhere. If you believe in God, you may think the light symbolises the presence of God in the world. If you are not sure about your beliefs, the flickering light may make you wonder about the existence of God. If you don't believe in God, the light may make you consider what meaning there is in the world. Or the candle may have a particular meaning for you today.</i></p> <p>Saying / signing a greeting. Examples:</p> <p>In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Amen</p> <p>Grace, mercy and peace be with you and also with you.</p> <p>The Lord be with you and also with you.</p> <p>Peace be with you And also with you</p> <p>The light of Christ be with you And also with you</p> <p>Alleluia, alleluia. We have seen his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.</p>	<p>Wise Men's Star</p> <p>Equipment: Felt tip pens, star shaped post-it notes or cut-out stars and sticky tape, a big sheet of dark blue or black paper.</p> <p>Set-up: Securely attach the paper (night sky) to the wall and put the other equipment nearby.</p> <p>Suggested Instructions: God put a star in the sky to help guide the wise men find Jesus. Is there something that you need guidance about? Is there something you need help with? If you want to, you can write a thought or prayer for help or guidance onto a star and stick it onto the night sky.</p>  <p>Links to worship songs:</p> <p>Born is the King</p>

	<p>Alleluia.</p> <p>Engage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use three wrapped gifts. Ask children to consider what may be in the wrapping. Who might the gift be for? • Unwrap gifts – did anyone guess what the gifts were? Who might they be for? • Explain that they are for a baby. Does this surprise you? Would a baby like these gifts? Why? Why not? <p>Read Matthew 2.</p> <p>The story could be re-told using props, puppets, drama, keywords.</p> <p>Or watch:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWk8WCODnV4</p> <p>Explain:</p> <p><i>What gifts were given to Jesus. Are these suitable for a baby?</i> Jesus was a special baby – many people believe he was the messiah promised to the Jews.</p> <p>Going deeper</p> <p><i>What do you think the meaning of these gifts was?</i></p> <p>Respond</p> <p>Encourage the pupils to respond with their own prayers first</p> <p>Dear Lord, thank you that you wanted both rich and poor to see baby Jesus. Thank you that as we think about the visits of the wise men, we are reminded that every person is important to you. Please help us to use all the gifts that you have given to us. Thank you for all the good things that you give. Amen.</p> <p>Sending/Blessing</p> <p>“Sending” is the completion of the worship. When your worship in the hall comes to a conclusion there is literally a “sending”, as people exit and go back to their classrooms—how you follow the same pattern in the classroom will depend on how you prepared and gathered for worship.</p>	<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnMBUjCPaZ0</p> <p>We Three Kings of Orient Are https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBwL3y-Wlms&vl=en</p> <p>Light of the World https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MmRGSEG2LM</p> <p>Light of the World https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCRunZGYBi4</p> <p>Christmas Medley https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0iFgc5GjwA</p> <p>You could also use any king songs from nativities used in schools.</p>
--	---	--

	<p>Blessing examples:</p> <p>Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts, reveal to you his glory and pour upon you the riches of his grace; and the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you all, evermore Amen</p> <p>May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you throughout the day Amen.</p> <p>May the light of Christ shine in your hearts and fill your lives with his joy and peace. Amen.</p> <p>Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.</p> <p>Go in peace, go in joy, go in love. Amen.</p> <p>We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Amen</p>	
Tuesday	<p>Gathering</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Engaging</p> <p>Re-visit the story of the wise men from yesterday. Use a different way of re-telling the story.</p> <p>Responding</p> <p>Remind pupils of the expensive gold that the wise men gave to Jesus to show he was a king. <i>What sort of presents do kings expect? What would a poor person visiting Jesus give? Would they give nothing at all?</i> <i>What would you give to a special baby?</i> Create a gift (play dough)/picture of a gift that you would give</p> <p>Sending</p> <p>As above</p>	
Wednesday	<p>Gathering</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Engaging</p>	

<p>Doors are for walking through in order to then act or respond in some way; it might mean moving on, making choices, doing something creative or purposeful in response.</p>	<p>Christmas is a time for giving gifts, following the example of the wise men:</p> <p>Have some rubbish gifts wrapped up (squashed banana, empty chocolate tin etc). Ask a volunteer to unwrap and think about what they think of the gift. Explain how it makes you feel as the person giving the gift – a bit bad because you know what is in the gift</p> <p><u>Use John Lewis advert.</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14cBlpWzcFQ</p> <p>When we go shopping for Christmas presents we want to make sure we have the right present for the right person...there's nothing more exciting than going into a shop and seeing a present that is perfect for someone, to buy it and to excitedly see them open it on Christmas morning just like the little boy in the advert.</p> <p>The reason that advert is so great is because most adverts tell us what we want...they are about feeding our desire for more stuff...but that advert tricks us...we believe at the beginning that the little boy is excited about getting to Christmas for his presents but on Christmas morning he walks straight past his own presents to give one to his parents...because that was what he was excited about.</p> <p><i>Alternative approach</i></p> <p>At Christmas Christians often give gifts to/ raise money for the needy.</p> <p>Show video clip for operation Christmas Child https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/occ-videos/</p> <p>Responding</p> <p>Make a Christmas box for the homeless – assemble with objects brought in/ bring in shoe boxes if school takes part in this project.</p> <p>Create a Christmas card/gift for someone in the community – lonely, homeless etc or someone in your family.</p> <p>Sending</p> <p>As above</p>	
<p>Thursday –</p>	<p><i>Use the Meditation resource alongside the Spiritual Encounters – bible based meditation teacher's pack:</i></p>	

Meditation 	<p>http://www.ldbe.co.uk/about/guidance-resources/worship-and-meditation/</p> <p>(This can be adapted for use with all ages)</p> <p>You may want to use the following reflection:</p> <p>Matthew 2: 1-12</p> <p>The Meeting Place Poem by Christopher Pilling</p> <p><i>It was the arrival of the kings that caught us unawares; we'd look in on the woman in the barn, curiosity you could call it, something to do on a cold winter's night; we'd wished her well— that was the best we could do, she was in pain, and the next thing we knew she was lying on the straw —the little there was of it-- and there was a baby in her arms. It was, as I say, the kings that caught us unawares... Women have babies every other day, not that we are there— let's call it a common occurrence though, giving birth. But kings appearing in a stable with a 'Is this the place?' and kneeling, each with his gift held out towards the child! They didn't even notice us. Their robes trailed on the floor, rich, lined robes that money couldn't buy. What must this child be to bring kings from distant lands with costly incense and gold? And what were we to make of was it angels falling through the air, entwined and falling as if from the rafters to where the gaze of the kings met the child's —assuming the child could see? What would the mother do with the gifts? What would become of the child? And we'll never admit there are angels or that somewhere between one man's eye's and another's is a holy place, a space where a king could be at one with a child, at one with an astonished soldier.</i></p>
Friday – Celebration 	<p>Take this time to celebrate what has happened during the week – you may want to give out awards. If possible, join the bubbles using Zoom or Teams so that the whole school can come together in a time of celebration.</p>

	Remember that this should also be a time of worship and celebration so begin with a gathering, include a prayer, a blessing, and a song of celebration.	
--	--	--

Thanksgiving		
Weekly bible focus: Luke 1: 46-56 Mary praises God Luke 2: 8 -20 Shepherds hear about Jesus Matthew 2: Wise Men visit Jesus	 Thankful Classroom worship.pptx	Reflection ideas for the classroom or outdoor area
Monday  Windows Windows are for looking out onto God's world and being inspired by its wonders.	<p>Gathering</p> <p>Once everyone is calm and the space is set up ready for worship you may want to start by lighting a candle.</p> <p>Light the candle with these words: <i>As we come together, we light this candle. If you are Christian, you may think the light is like Jesus, shining out everywhere. If you believe in God, you may think the light symbolises the presence of God in the world. If you are not sure about your beliefs, the flickering light may make you wonder about the existence of God. If you don't believe in God, the light may make you consider what meaning there is in the world. Or the candle may have a particular meaning for you today.</i></p> <p>Saying / signing a greeting. Examples:</p> <p>This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.</p> <p>Come on everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!</p> <p>The Lord is with us Let us praise his name together</p> <p>Grace, mercy and peace be with you and also with you.</p> <p>The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and also with you.</p>	<p>Christmas Thanks</p> <p>Equipment: Christmas Tree. Red paper baubles, hole punched. Pens to write on baubles. String to hang baubles.</p> <p>Suggested Instructions: Christmas is a time where we see family and friends; where we think about the year that has just gone by and the year to come. Take a moment to think of three things you can be thankful for that have happened since last Christmas. It might be passing an exam, getting into another school, winning a sporting event. Write the three things you are thankful for onto a Christmas bauble and hang it on the tree.</p> 

<p>We have gathered here today to think about 'Thankfulness'</p> <p>Engage</p> <p>Read or retell dramatically the Nativity story from Luke 2. You could use puppets and/or a sensory box</p> <p> nativity-story-sensor y-box.pdf</p> <p>Or watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5m2GE6DFEM</p> <p>Explain: Explain that Christmas is a time when many Christians thank God that Jesus came to earth to show and tell people how to live.</p> <p>Going deeper Get children to think about thankfulness in relation to the Christmas story. What 'thank you' prayers and sentences might people in the story (Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels) have said at different moments?</p> <p>Respond</p> <p>Please listen to the words of this prayer. After each line you might like to say the words 'We give you thanks and praise.'</p> <p>For Jesus, God's amazing gift to the world, All: We give you thanks and praise. For all that Jesus has done for us, All: We give you thanks and praise. For giving us all we that we have, All: We give you thanks and praise. Amen.</p> <p>Sending/Blessing "Sending" is the completion of the worship. When your worship in the hall comes to a conclusion there is literally a "sending", as people exit and go back to their classrooms—how you follow the same pattern in the classroom will depend on how you prepared and gathered for worship.</p> <p>Blessing examples:</p> <p>We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Amen</p>	<p>Jesus' Gifts – Being Thankful</p> <p>Equipment: Play dough, protective sheeting, a table and chairs.</p> <p>Set-up: Cover the table with protective sheeting and put the play dough on top.</p> <p>Suggested Instructions: When the Wise Men found Jesus, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What 'gifts' do you have? (Not just things, but people, skills, memories, anything really.) What are you thankful for? If you want to, you can make a model of something you would like to say thank you for.</p>  <p>Links to worship songs:</p> <p>Born is the King https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EnMBUjCPaZ0</p> <p>Christmas Medley https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0iFgc5GjwA</p>
---	---

	<p>Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.</p> <p>Go in peace, We go in peace Go in joy We go in joy Go in love We go in love Amen.</p> <p>May the light of Christ our Lord shine in all our hearts. Amen.</p>	
Tuesday	<p>Gathering As above</p> <p>Engaging Bethlehemian Rhapsody https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pW1pbuyGIQ0 Modern retelling of the nativity using music Bohemian Rhapsody</p> <p>Responding Remind children of the ‘thank you’ prayers and sentences might people in the story (Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels) might have said at different moments? Make a paper chain of these ‘thank you’ words as part of class Christmas decorations (use big links, and supported writing and talk to enable deeper thinking; some pupils may choose/need to show their ideas with pictures). Use red and green paper to make this chain</p> <p>Sending As above</p>	
Wednesday	<p>Gathering As above</p> <p>Engaging How do people show gratitude at Christmas? What examples of being thankful were in the Christmas story? Discuss whether children have anything to be thankful for at Christmas this year. You could show pictures of the things that are taken for granted that others may not have.</p> <p>Responding</p>	

	<p>Make another paper chain(use two different colours, maybe blue and purple this time) of all the ‘thank yous’ the pupils can think of that they need to say this Christmas: to family, friends, teachers, dinner supervisors and so on, for all that makes Christmas a special time of year.</p> <p>Or create a gratitude jar/ tree where children add all the things/people they are thankful for</p> <p>Sending</p> <p>As above</p>	
<p>Thursday –</p> <p>Meditation</p> 	<p><i>Use the Meditation resource alongside the Spiritual Encounters – bible based meditation teacher’s pack:</i></p> <p>http://www.ldbe.co.uk/about/guidance-resources/worship-and-meditation/</p> <p><i>(This can be adapted for use with all ages)</i></p> <p><i>You may want to use the following reflection:</i></p> <p>Be Thankful</p> <p>Be thankful that you don’t already have everything you desire.</p> <p>If you did, what would there be to look forward to?</p> <p>Be thankful when you don’t know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.</p> <p>Be thankful for the difficult times.</p> <p>During those times you grow.</p> <p>Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.</p> <p>Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.</p> <p>Be thankful for your mistakes.</p> <p>They will teach you valuable lessons.</p> <p>Be thankful when you’re tired and weary, because it means you’ve made a difference.</p> <p>It’s easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfilment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.</p> <p>Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings</p>	

<p>Friday –</p> <p>Celebration</p> 	<p>Take this time to celebrate what has happened during the week – you may want to give out awards. If possible, join the bubbles using Zoom or Teams so that the whole school can come together in a time of celebration.</p> <p>Remember that this should also be a time of worship and celebration so begin with a gathering, include a prayer, a blessing, and a song of celebration.</p>	
---	--	--