

Acts of Worship

Virtue: Love of learning

I am a lifelong learner

I am excited and enthusiastic to learn

Gathering together

Focal point: Green cloth, examples of books, exercise books, pens/pencils etc, school jumper, reading record etc

Introduction:

Discuss with the children the start of the new school year, what we want to achieve, our goals, hopes, dreams for the year. What do you enjoy about school? Which subjects are your favourite? Do you enjoy learning new things?

In this virtue, we are thinking about finding joy in our learning, even if sometimes we find it difficult.

Word: (Show image below)

“Show me your ways Lord, teach me Your paths”

Psalm 25:4

Response to/reflection on the Word

Think about the verse we have just read. What does this mean for us as we start our new school year? How can we follow God’s guidance to stay on the right path? We can trust in God to make the right choices, to be the best version of ourselves throughout our journey this year in school.

Play some reflective music and ask the children to think about their goals and hopes this year.

Share some if they feel comfortable. Ask God to help the children achieve these goals, e.g. *We thank you Lord for bringing us all together at the start of a new school year. Help us to enjoy our learning and give everything we can to be the best we can be.*
Amen.

Going forth

Give each child the template and ask them to draw or write a goal they want to achieve this year, that they can ask God to help them with. They can then place them in a jar in class, or in their trays to reflect upon throughout the year.

Ideas for music:

Psalm 25 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9ZpEuUhSVc&list=RD-9ZpEuUhSVc&start_radio=1&rv=-9ZpEuUhSVc&t=1)

Mark 10 Mission: My lighthouse, Open the eyes of my heart

Shine, Jesus shine

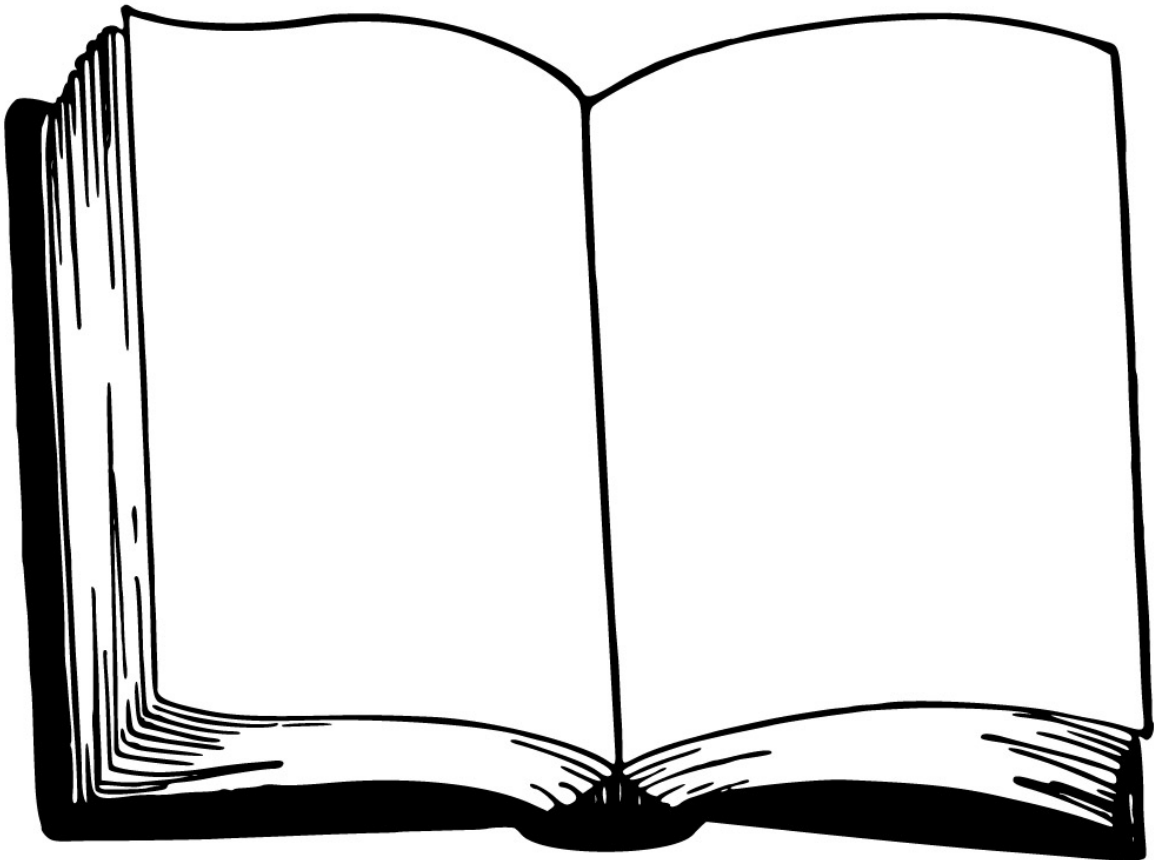
Be not afraid

Father I place into Your hands

Acts of Worship

Show me your ways, LORD,
teach me your paths.

Psalm 25:4



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Focal point: Green cloth, display the 'Our Father Prayer', crucifix

Introduction:

Who inspires you? Who do you look to help you get better at things? (e.g. teachers, sports coaches, parents etc Show images of famous inspirational people below). What qualities make them inspirational? What virtues do they demonstrate?

This week we are thinking about Jesus as an inspirational teacher. Jesus taught His disciples and His followers using stories to help them understand important messages.

Word: Matthew 5:1-12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

- ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
- ⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
- ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
- ⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
- ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
- ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
- ¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Response to/reflection on the Word

Play reflective music.

What makes Jesus a good teacher?

How do we know that people wanted to listen to Him? (crowds followed Him)

Acts of Worship

How did He explain God's will to people in a way they could understand? (parables, stories, plain language etc)

What messages can we take from His teaching in today's reading?

Christ Jesus, help us to listen to Your message and follow Your example. Amen.

Going forth

Pick one of the 'blesseds' from the reading and ask the children to focus on trying to be that for this week. E.g. Ask the children to try to be peacemakers this week. Ask them to give each other the sign of peace to show this before they leave.

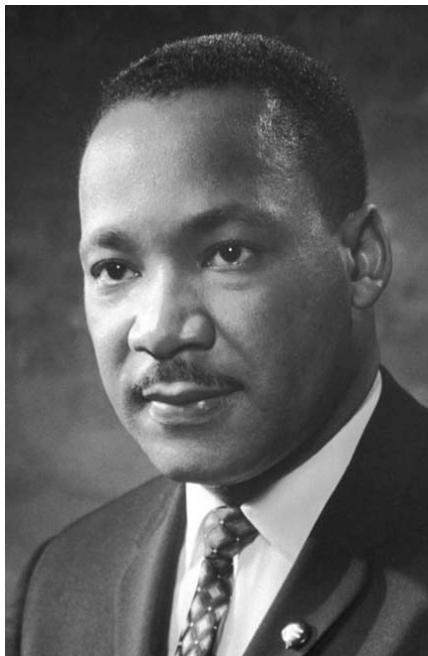
Alternatively, each child could receive one of the bookmarks below.

Ideas for music:

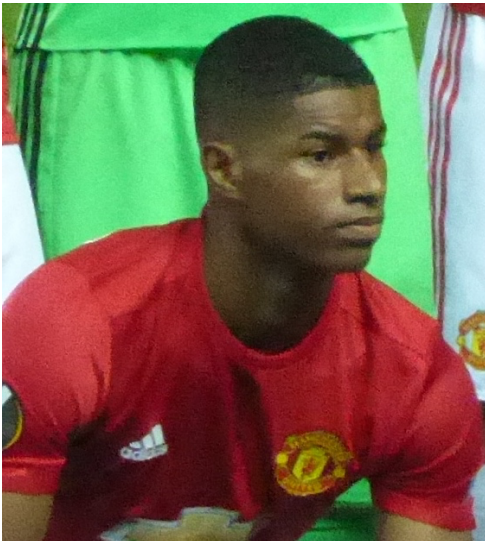
Mark 10 Mission: Here I am to worship, My lighthouse, Open the eyes of my heart
Peace, perfect peace

<https://sjbrown58.wordpress.com/2011/01/11/song-choices-to-accompany-jesus%E2%80%99-sermon-on-the-mount/>

Fischy Music: May you find peace, God beside



Acts of Worship



Acts of Worship

The poor
in spirit
are
blessed,
for the
kingdom
of heaven
is theirs.



Those who
mourn are
blessed,
for they
will be
comforted.



The
gentle are
blessed,
for they
will
inherit
the earth.



Those who
hunger
and
thirst
for
righteousness
are blessed,
for they
will be
filled.



The
merciful
are
blessed,
for they
will be
shown
mercy.



The pure
in heart
are
blessed,
for they
will see
God.



The
peacemakers
are blessed,
for they
will be
called
sons of
God.



Those who
are
persecuted
for
righteousness
are blessed,
for the
kingdom of
heaven is
theirs.



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Focal point: Green cloth, examples of books, exercise books, pens/pencils etc, plant or wheatsheaf (link to parable).

Introduction:

Think about the goals you set during the first Virtue act of worship. How will you achieve them? What do you need to do as a learner to help yourself?

They need to look after themselves (sleep, rest, eat well, exercise, mindfulness etc). Link to other virtues such as resilience, perseverance, hope etc Talk to the children about them having responsibility for their own learning too.

Word: Matthew 13:1-8

That same day Jesus left the house and went to the lakeside, where he sat down to teach. 2 The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it, while the crowd stood on the shore. 3 He used parables to tell them many things.

“Once there was a man who went out to sow grain. 4 As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. 6 But when the sun came up, it burned the young plants; and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. 7 Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 But some seeds fell in good soil, and the plants bore grain: some had one hundred grains, others sixty, and others thirty.”

Response to/reflection on the Word

What happened to the seeds that fell on rocky ground? What happened to those that fell on only a little soil? Which seeds grew well? What is the message that Jesus is teaching us here?

What do we need to do to bear fruit? How can we 'grow' well?

Talk to the children about them listening to God's word, following in Jesus' footsteps but also having responsibility for their own growth and learning.

Thank you God for giving us seeds of knowledge to help us learn. Help us and guide us as learners to embrace new knowledge, seek Your truth and reach our potential. Amen.

Going forth

Everybody to learn one new thing this week. Leader could give an example of one thing he/she would like to learn.

Ideas for music:

Let there be love shared among us

Spirit of the living God (Michael Iverson) – could adapt the verses

Acts of Worship

This little light of mine

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