

Acts of Worship

Virtue: Respect / Courtesy

Virtue to live by:

I am respectful. I treat others as I would like to be treated.

I show courtesy to everyone as we are all made in God's image and likeness.

Week 1

Gathering together

Focal point:

Green cloth

Candle

Bible

Pictures of children doing different activities in school – playing, talking, working together etc.

Leader:

We gather together today in the name of the Father....

Today, as we start a new school year, we will be thinking about how we treat each other in school, at home and in our communities.

Jesus came to show us how to live together, respecting one another as brothers and sisters in God's family.

The Word of the Lord

Matthew 7: 12 Good News Translation (GNT)

In the reading we are going to listen to Jesus is teaching us about the Golden Rule for how we should try to live every day.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you O Christ.

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Response / Reflection on the Word

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We are going to think about the Gospel reading we have just heard and what this means to us as we start a new school year.

Let us think about how we are going to work and play together respectfully and with courtesy.

We will be working together in class – think about how we could share all our equipment fairly, and look out for others in our class to make sure they have all they need.

We will be playing together – think about how, in class and in the playground, we could let others have a turn first.

Could you say, “Would you like a turn?”

We could share our toys and games to make sure everyone has a good playtime.

We will be helping others – when we see an adult or child needs help we could offer our hands and hearts by saying, “Can I help you?”

We will be looking after our school building – if we see some litter or belongings on the floor, we could pick it up and not leave it for someone else to do.

Give children time to pray silently, or pray with them. Alternatively, there are some prayer examples below:

Let us pray.

We pray for our school community, that we as we start a new school year, we remember every day the Golden Rule, ‘We treat others as we would like to be treated.’

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

We pray that we share fairly with others in our classrooms, playground and homes.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

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We pray that we speak to everyone respectfully, being polite and helpful to all.
Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

Father, help us to show the love you show us every day through our words and actions. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Going forth

This week within our school and home family, we are going to try to find ways to think of others before ourselves.

Ideas for music:

On this school your blessing Lord

A new commandment

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Week 2

Virtue: Respect / Courtesy

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Gathering together

Focal point:

Green cloth

Candle

Bible

Pictures of children and adults of different cultures, ages etc.

Lighting the candle is a sign that we come together with Jesus. Let's just pause for a moment to remind ourselves that Jesus is with us as we pray.....

Today we are going to think about how we are all created by God and are all part of God's family.

Sit in a relaxed position...

Put your hands in a cup-like position in your lap or let them rest loosely on your knees...

Now let your eyelids close very gently if that is comfortable for you or gaze at the candle...

I want you to become aware of your breathing...

Notice the breath as it enters through your nostrils or mouth when you breathe in and notice the breath as it leaves your body...

Every time you breathe in just say to yourself, 'IN'...

Every time you breathe out say to yourself, 'OUT'...

If your mind wanders just bring it back gently to notice your breathing... IN and OUT....

Remember that as you breathe in it is God's life and love that enters. We breathe out anything that worries us or makes us feel anxious.

(Pause for a couple of minutes)

Word of God

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The reading we are now going to listen to is taken from the first book of the Bible. It is called the book of Genesis, which means book of beginnings because it is the first book in the Bible and tells us about the beginning of the world. In it we are told that God made us all just to be like God. If we're all made to be like God then we must treat each other with love and respect.

Reader:

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

God created man and woman.

God created them to be like God.

They could know and love God.

They could know and love one another.

God blessed them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Based on Genesis 1:26. God's Story 2. p. 10)

Response / Reflection on the Word:

God created me to be like God.

God created you to be like God.

God created everyone to be like God.

God blesses me.

God blesses you.

God blesses everyone.

Just say these lines quietly to yourself and see how it makes you feel.

God created me to be like God.

God blesses me.

How will you show others today that you know God created them just as he created you?

(You may want to take some responses from the children).

Let us pray

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We are all special because God love us and created us.

We turn to God our Father now to give thanks for making each one of us special and ask God to hear our prayers.

We pray that we use words and actions that show we see God in others and ourselves .

Help us to speak words politely, showing we value everyone.

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

We give thanks for our uniqueness. Help us to treat everybody we meet as children of God.

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

We give thanks that we can share God's life and love. Help us today to show God's loves to others and in that way help them to come to know God.

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

Going Forth

I want you to try to remember all day that each person in this school, each person in the whole world is made by God and is special. Try to treat everyone you meet today as a special person.

Let us now end our time of prayer together by praising God who made us all to be like God as we say:

All:

Glory be to the Father

And to the Son

And to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning

Is now and ever shall be

World without end, Amen.

Suggested hymns /songs:

I'm special to Jesus – John Froud

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Week 3

Virtue: Respect / Courtesy

Virtue to live by:

I am respectful. I treat others as I would like to be treated.

I show courtesy to everyone as we are all made in God's image and likeness.

Gathering together

Focal point:

Green cloth

Candle

Bible

Picture of Jesus calling Matthew the tax collector

Lighting the candle is a sign that we come together with Jesus. Let's just pause for a moment to remind ourselves that Jesus is with us as we pray.....

Today we are going to be thinking about how important it is to show respect for everyone – no matter who they are. We believe that everyone is a child of God and we were all made by God to be like God. Because of this and because God's life is within each one of us we have to treat other people the same way we would treat Jesus.

If Jesus walked into the room now and spent the day in your class how would you treat him? What would you do?

The Word of God:

St. Luke, one of the 4 gospel writers, wrote lots of stories in his gospel about how Jesus loved and respected people that others thought were no good and therefore treated them badly. The gospel calls them 'outcasts' or sinners. Here is one of these stories about a man called Levi.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (5: 27-32)

Glory to you, O Lord.

Levi was a tax collector. Tax collectors were not liked by the people. As well as taking taxes for the Romans, they would take extra money from the people

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and keep it for themselves. The only friends they had were other tax collectors, who also cheated the people.

One day Jesus was passing by and he saw Levi sitting in his office. Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Levi got up, left everything and followed Jesus. He gave a big feast in his house for Jesus. He invited his friends – the other tax collectors. He also invited some other people who weren't usually invited to dinner. They were outcasts. Respectable people wouldn't have anything to do with them.

Some important people complained to Jesus' friends. "Why does Jesus eat with people like this?" they asked. Jesus answered them, "I am here for people who need me."

Levi became one of the Twelve friends of Jesus. His name was changed to Matthew.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Response / Reflection

One of the messages of this story is that, like Jesus, we should respect and treat all people with dignity.

Treating people with respect and courtesy means that they will feel valued and of worth.

Think quietly now of someone in your class or in school that you find it hard to like and don't always treat very well.

Picture that person in your mind and remember that, like you that person is loved and special to God..... Pray for that person and ask God to help you to treat them with respect and courtesy today and in the future.....

Let us pray

We pray that we can see God in those we find hard to like and love.

Lord hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

We pray that our words and actions include all people.

Lord hear us.

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Lord graciously hear us.

Lord, help us to live our lives as you would want by being caring, loving, and respectful to others and to follow in Jesus' footsteps by treating others as I would like to be treated. Amen.

Going Forth:

Today we will try to treat everyone with love and respect especially those who we find hard to love.

Suggested Hymns:

Lord let your love shine through me

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Week 4

Virtue: Respect / Courtesy

Virtue to live by:

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I show courtesy to everyone as we are all made in God's image and likeness.

Gathering together

Focal point:

Green cloth

Candle

Bible

Road signs / picture of path dividing – alternate routes (symbolising choice of how you may behave)

School Rules

Quiet music on entrance.

Lighting the candle is a sign that we come together with Jesus. Let's just pause for a moment to remind ourselves that Jesus is with us as we pray.....

Today we are going to be thinking about how rules help us to guide us as we make choices every day.

They help us to behave in a respectful and courteous way.

Word of God

A long time before Jesus was born God's people spent a long time in the desert. They were led by a man called Moses who was very close to God. Moses was worried that God's people didn't always treat each other and God's world respectfully.

One day Moses and God's people, the Israelites camped near a mountain called Mount Sinai. Moses climbed the mountain and prayed that God would teach them rules or laws that would bind them together – unite them – as a people. When Moses returned to the people he told them the rules God had given him. Let's listen to that story. It is found in one of the first 5 books of the bible called the Book of Exodus:

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A reading from the Book of Exodus

These are the rules God gave the People to help them to live together in love and peace.

Moses climbed Mount Sinai. He remained on the mountain for a very long time, praying and talking with God. Then he returned to God's people and told them God's Laws, the Ten Commandments.

I am the Lord your God.
Love, serve and praise me.

Keep my name holy.
Keep my day holy.

Love and obey your parents
and those who have charge of you.

Do not kill, do not be angry or bad tempered;
respect and care for yourself and other people.

Do not steal, or cheat or want things
that do not belong to you.

Tell the truth and speak kindly of others.

Do all you can to care for others
and make them happy.

Do all you can to care for other
people's belongings.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Response to/reflection on the Word

God gave the people of God rules so that they could live together in love – the kind of love God shows us every day.

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The response to our prayer is:
Thank you God our Father.

R/Thank you God our Father.

For the gift of your rules that help us to live together in love and peace

R/

For the gift of our class community

R/

For the gift of our school community

R/

For the gift of school and classroom rules

R/

Going Forth:

Today we will try follow God's rules showing by being respectful and courteous to all we meet.

Suggested hymns / music:

Will you let me be your servant

Bind us together Lord

Lord let your love shine through me