

Acts of Worship

Autumn 2

Virtue: Hope

Virtue to live by:

I trust that God's love has no end and that He is at work in my life and in the world.

Week 1- theme – Feast of All Saints

Gathering together

Focal point:

Red cloth

Images of saints/ statue of own school saint

Crucifix

Word

Matthew 5:1-12 The Beatitudes

Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.

His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them.

He said:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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Response to / Reflection on the Word

Read each Beatitude again slowly, asking the children to reflect on how they could live this – e.g. *How could they be a peacemaker? How could they help those who are persecuted?*

Could look at Pope Benedict's address: "I hope that among those of you listening today there are some of the future saints of the 21st century. What God wants most of all for each one of you is that you should become holy. He loves you much more than you could ever begin to imagine and He wants the very best for you. "

*How do we become saints and live the beatitudes? How do we become holy?
Through holiness we become saints.*

Going forth

Give the children the mission of choosing one Beatitude and trying to fulfil that during the week.

Ideas for music:

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

Peace perfect peace

Be not afraid

Seek ye first

Lord of all hopefulness

Father I place into your hands

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Virtue: Hope

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I trust that God's love has no end and that He is at work in my life and in the world.

Week 2- theme – Remembrance

Gathering together

Focal point:

Purple cloth

Poppies

Crucifix

Book – 'Where the poppies now grow' or 'Flo of the Somme' by Hilary Robinson

Word

Matthew 28:20

"I will be with you always, to the end of the age."

Response to / Reflection on the Word:

We remember our loved ones, those who we have lost, those who have given their lives in war. We remember that they are with God in the eternal joy of heaven.

Pray the 'Eternal Rest'

Going forth:

Bring in a photo of a loved one who has died, or someone who is special to them who is no longer with them to contribute to a remembrance wall (display)

Music ideas:

If tomorrow never comes, Ronan Keating

He will raise you up on eagle's wings

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzeHY43kRLA>

You Call me to be yours <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzeHY43kRLA>

Green Fields of France, Davey Arthur

Jesus remember me

Alternatively, you could watch the animation:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pv_ub7Be7oA

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Virtue: Hope

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I trust that God's love has no end and that He is at work in my life and in the world.

Week 3- theme – hope in Jesus

Gathering together

Focal point:

Green cloth (can still keep it purple for remembrance in November)

Objects representing light

Children to walk into the room when it is in darkness, enter to a Taize – Jesus remember me.

Have the room in darkness. Share the objects of light – how did they feel coming into a dark room? Light one candle – what do we think about when we see this? God is with us, brings us light, lights our path. A representative to come up from each class to light their class candle.

Word:

Luke 18:35-43

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar

As Jesus was coming near Jericho, there was a blind man sitting by the road, begging. When he heard the crowd passing by, he asked, "What is this?" "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," they told him. He cried out, "Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!" The people in front scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David! Have mercy on me!" So Jesus stopped and ordered the blind man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" "Sir," he answered, "I want to see again." Jesus said to him, "Then see! Your faith has made you well." At once he was able to see, and he followed Jesus, giving thanks to God. When the crowd saw it, they all praised God.

Response to / Reflection on the Word:

During the reading, the blind man had hope in Jesus, he was confident that Jesus could and would heal him. Despite people telling him not to shout out, the Blind man had faith. Even though he couldn't see Jesus, he had faith – we cannot see Him either, but we have faith and hope in Jesus.

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Are there times when we find life difficult, when we find it hard to see? What gives us hope?

We pray together:

Heavenly Father, help us to have hope, trust that You will always be with us, especially when we feel that we are in darkness. Shine a light to guide our path. Amen.

Going forth:

Mission – each day say a special prayer for someone they would like to pray for (refer back to the remembrance wall)

Music ideas:

Lay your hands gently upon us

Shine Jesus shine

Christ be our light

This little light of mine

I would light a candle

Sing it in the valleys

Lighting the candle

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Week 4 – theme – Christ the King

Virtue to live by:

I trust that God's love has no end and that He is at work in my life and in the world.

Gathering together

Focal point:

Gold cloth

Crucifix

Gold crown

Word

Luke 23:35-43 Good News Translation (GNT)

The people stood there watching while the Jewish leaders made fun of him: "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah whom God has chosen!" The soldiers also made fun of him: they came up to him and offered him cheap wine, and said, "Save yourself if you are the king of the Jews!" Above him were written these words: "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying, "Don't you fear God? You received the same sentence he did. Ours, however, is only right, because we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!" Jesus said to him, "I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me."

Response to / Reflection on the Word

Play 'Jesus remember me' during the reflection – ask children to reflect upon the thief who still had hope that he could be with Jesus in heaven.

How did he have hope even when he was on the cross? How did Jesus give him hope?

Did Jesus look like a king at this time? Did he live in a palace? What sort of king was he really?

Going forth

Mission – Give someone a second chance this week, a fresh start.

Ideas for music:

Christ is our king let the whole world rejoice

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Majesty, worship his majesty

Our God reigns

Jesus remember me

The servant king