

# Child-led Collective Worship



Year 3



Your collective worship session is going to follow the liturgical structure: gather, listen, respond and go forth (mission).

## Gather

### 1. Prepare your sacred space.

You will need to create a focal point to help your classmates focus during the prayer. Your sacred space should be related to the theme of your worship or the liturgical year. Think about the purpose and meaning by the objects that you place in your sacred space.

What can we include on our sacred space?

- Tablecloths relevant to the liturgical year.
- Relevant images or artwork.
- Handmade decorations related to the theme of your worship.
- A crucifix
- A candle
- Flowers
- Special objects
- A Bible

### 2. Think about ways to gather your classmates together and put them in a calm mindset so that they are ready to pray to God and reflect on their lives.

What can we do to gather our class together?

- Play reflective music or sing a relevant hymn.
- Change the lighting to create a different, calmer atmosphere.
- Light a candle to remind your classmates of God's presence.
- Ask children to sit in a circle, a semi-circle or in lines.
- Think about if there is another safe space in your school where you could gather your classmates together, e.g. a prayer garden or a lawn.
- Lead a breathing exercise to help your classmates prepare for prayers.
- Sound an instrument until everyone is seated and calm e.g. a triangle or Indian bell.





## Word

1. You now need to choose a Scripture from the Old or New Testament. This can be a whole reading or just a couple sentences. Remember, the Scriptures are the primary source of faith and special sign of God's presence, so this is a very important part of your collective worship.

- Choose a reading from the 'themes' section. You may want to use your own reading related to a theme.
- If you are leading collective worship around Holy Week, Easter, Lent or Christmas then you may want to choose a reading from the 'Liturgical Year' section.
- You could read a parable or even the Sunday gospel from the Wednesday Word.

2. Add some creativity to your reading. You may wish to read the Scripture in a different way so that your classmates really understand the meaning behind it and remember it for a really long time so that they can apply the teaching to their own lives

- Create a PowerPoint of a series of images to tell the story from the Scriptures (a little bit like a storyboard).
- Act out the story.
- Mime the story as it is read.
- Tell the story in your own words.
- Section the reading with your group- take it in turns to read the story together.
- Use the story as guided meditation. Before you begin reading the story, ask your classmates to imagine that they are a key person in the reading. Afterwards, you can ask your classmates what they heard and saw, how they felt and what they thought of Jesus.
- Use puppets to tell the story.





## Response

This is a very special time as you are asking your classmates to respond to the Word of God that has just been read to them.

1. Give your classmates some quiet time to reflect on the Scripture. You could play some quiet music or play an instrument in the background.
2. Ask your classmates a couple thought-provoking questions
  - Do you think this Scripture has a moral?
  - How do you think \_\_\_\_\_ felt when \_\_\_\_\_?
  - How do you think this teaching applies to your own life?
3. Prepare a reflective response activity. Symbolism is very important here everything should have a clear meaning.

Ask the children to write or think of a personal prayer related to the theme.

Give each child an object (e.g. stone) and ask them to say a prayer to God sharing a worry or gratitude, for example. You could create a class mountain using the stones and this could be displayed on your prayer table as a reminder all week.

Children could each say one word that comes to mind after reflecting on the Scripture e.g. Honesty, Grateful.

Hand each child a teaspoon of salt. Ask them to prayer to God asking Him to forgive them for a particular sin or help them with a worry. They can place their salt in water and watch as the salt dissolves- reminding them that God will take away your sins and worries.

Add prayer to class prayer book.

Use cut out shapes e.g. hearts, people, stars to write prayers and thoughts on.

Draw a scenario/ image.

Ask each child to say something nice and complimentary about another classmate - you can do this in a clockwise formation so that everyone is involved.

You can make your response interactive. E.g. "stand up if you have ever...."

Plant seeds- watch as they grow overtime







Scripture: Themes

## PEACE

Romans 5 1-5

Isaiah 26: 3

John 14: 27

## SALVATION

Romans 10: 9-11

Titus 2: 11-14

## LOVE

1 Corinthians 13: 1-3

1 John 4: 7-12

## WISDOM

1 Kings 12: 1-24

1 Kings 3: 6-28; 4: 29-31

## FRIENDSHIP

1 Samuel 18: 1-5

Ruth 1: 16-17

## FORGIVENESS

Matthew 18: 21-35

Acts 13: 26-39

# Mission

This is also a really important part of your collective worship as you are asking your classmates to hold onto an element of the faith teaching in their daily lives. This could be something for them to do at home, school, in the parish, in their local community and in the wider community.

1. Set a realistic and relevant mission for your classmates. This should be something they can do to apply faith to life.
  - Tell them to 'go forth' and share the teaching they reflected upon during your collective worship.
  - Make a vocal promise
  - Make an internal promise
  - Invite someone lonely to play at lunchtime.
  - Greet someone with a smile.
  - Give out three secret compliments during that day.
  - Say a prayer for someone in need.
  - Do an action to show care for creation.
  - Find a few minutes each day to thank God for their blessings

## ACCEPTANCE

Psalm 139

## COURAGE

Psalm 11

Psalm 42

## GRATITUDE

Luke 17: 11-19

Corinthian 9: 11-12

Psalm 100: 4

Psalm 28: 7

## PATIENCE

James 5: 7-11

## RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 3: 10-26

Romans 10: 9-11

Romans 6: 11-23



### Advent

John 1: 9

John 1:14

### Christmas

Luke 1: 8-20 - The birth of Jesus is announced

Luke 2: 8-10 - The Shepherds are told about the birth of Jesus

Matthew 1: 18-25 - The birth of Jesus

Matthew 2: 1-12 - Three Wise Men

### Ash Wednesday

1 John 1: 9

### Holy Week: Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9

### Holy Week: Maundy Thursday

Luke 22: 1-65

### Holy Week: Good Friday

Psalm 22: 1-18

### Holy Week: Easter Sunday

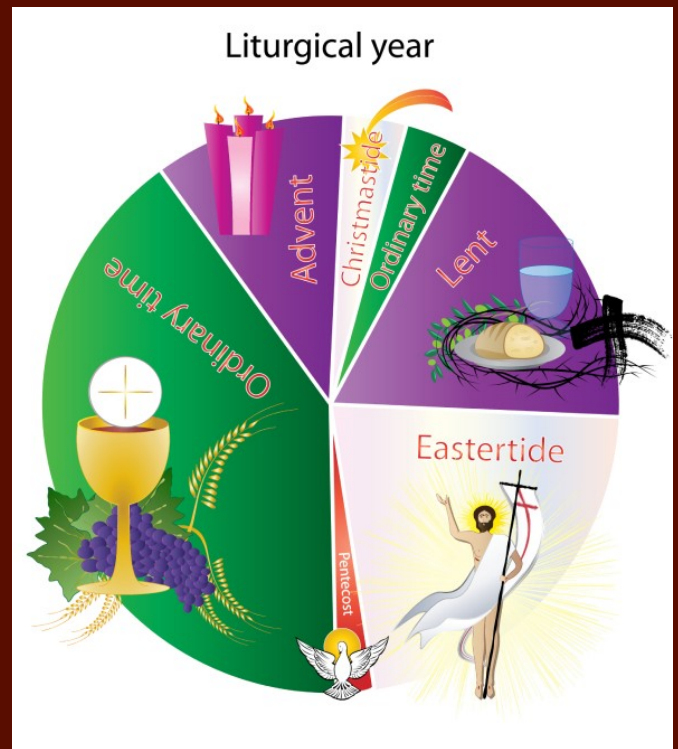
Isiah 52: 7-10

Luke 24

### Pentecost

Acts 2: 3-4

Acts 2: 38



## Parables

Good Samaritan Luke 10: 29-37

Lost coin, lost son, lost sheep  
Matthew 18: 10-14

Pharisee and the Tax Collector  
Luke 18: 9-14

Two sons  
Matthew 21: 28-32