

Year 3 – Universal Church



Our World - Special Places

Lesson 1

Special Places

Everyone has a place that is special to them.
Where is your special place?



What makes your place special?



Do you like to be with others or on your own?

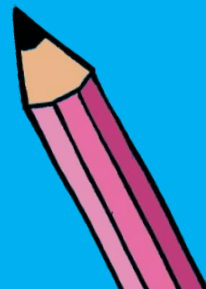
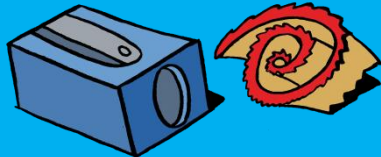


Hi my **name** is **Yulissa**. I am **eight** and I **live** in **Colombia**. Here I am in my **school uniform**, looking **smart** and ready for hard **work**.



This is my **Grandmother**. I **live** with her. She looks after **me** and my **three brothers**.

I **like living here** with my **Grandparents** because they are **helping** me **grow up**.





Here are **two** of my **brothers**, **Esteferson** who is twelve and **Dalmar** who is seven.

Dalmar and I **walk** to **school** together.

School is a **special place** for me. When I **grow up** I want to be a **teacher** so that I can teach **children** how to be **lovely adults**.





As you can see **home** and **school** are **two** of my **special places**.

What places are special to you?

What is a special place?

What places are special for Yulissa?

Where is your special place?

What makes it special for you?

Is it a place you go when you feel happy/sad, fed up/angry, just because, or another reason?

How do you show you appreciate your special place?

In what ways have any of your special places changed as you have grown up?

Why do think that everyone needs a special place?

**Think about what makes
each place special**



Special places at home...





Special places in school...



Special places in the community...





Special places around the world...

Task:

On a piece of paper, encourage the children to draw/write about their special place. Make links by writing words to join these places together.

OR

Ask the children to create their own imaginary special place. What would it look like?

Draw and/or describe this special place.

Use a computer art programme to draw this place.

Create this place using modelling dough.

Be sure to share with us on Class Dojo!

Reflect



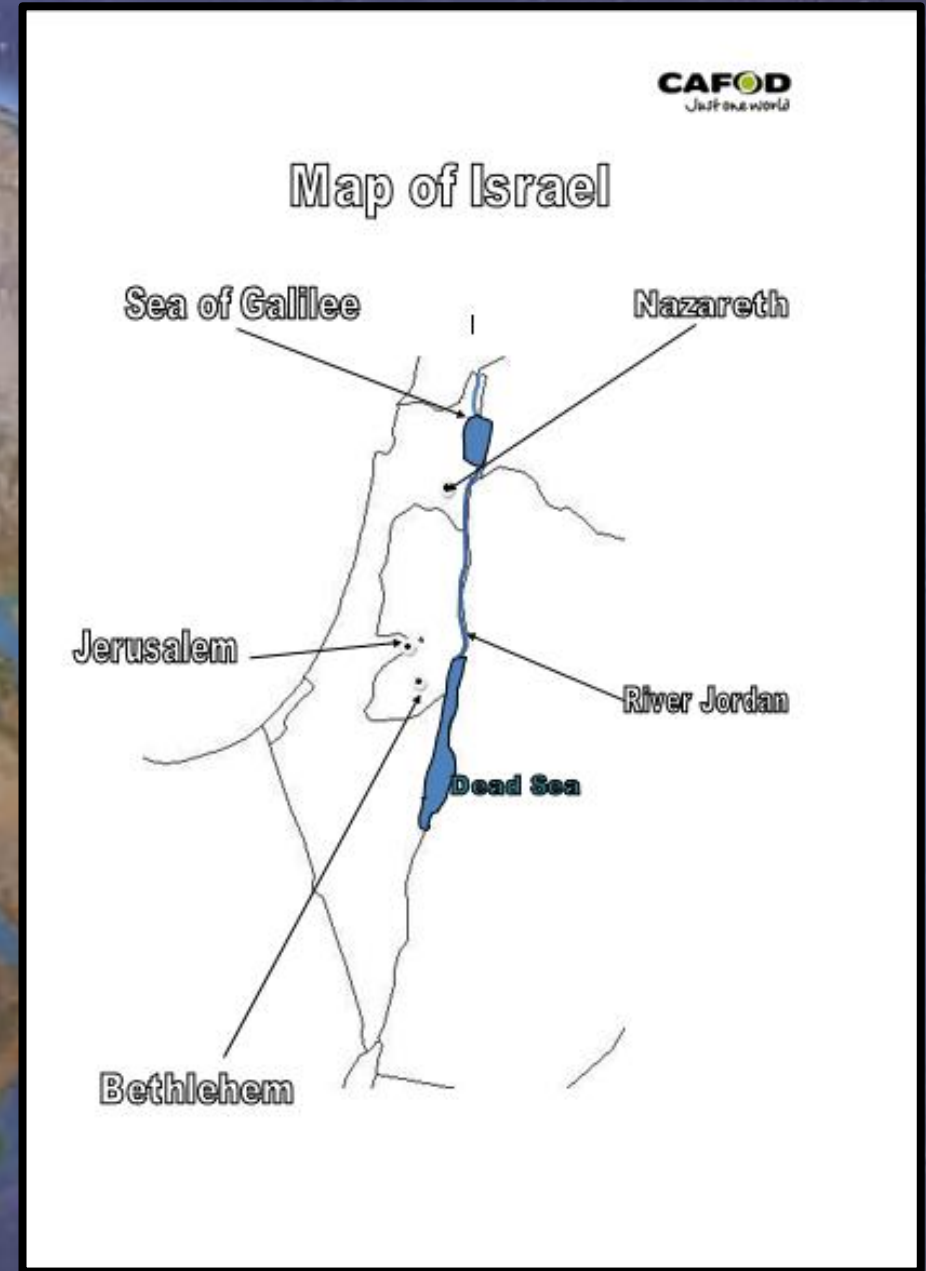
Draw and colour our world, or print this world resource and on it write a word to describe how your safe place makes you feel.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Lesson 2

Special Places for Jesus

It is possible today to visit many of the places associated with the life of Jesus in what Christians call the Holy Land.



Where is the special place
for Jesus here?

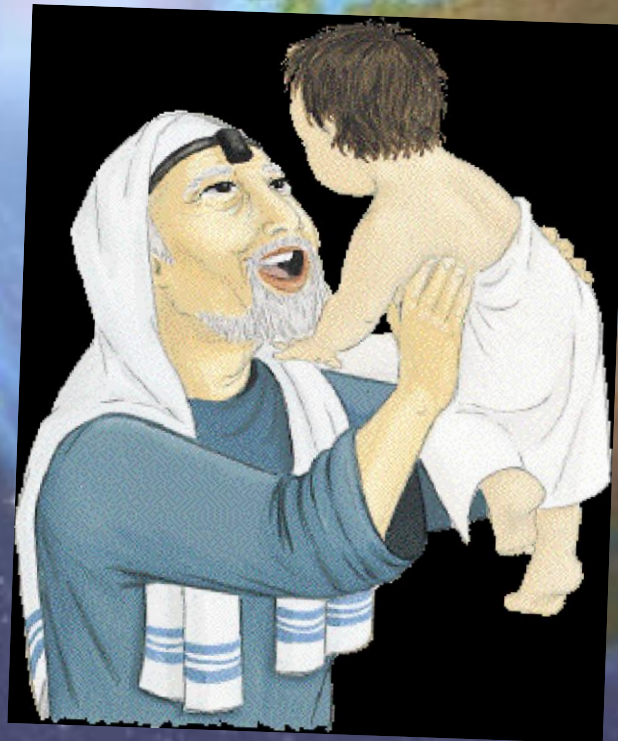
A **messenger** from **God**
said to the **shepherds**,
“Tonight a **baby**
called **Jesus** has been
born in **Bethlehem**”

Luke 2:10-12



The **law** says that the
eldest boy in each
family must be taken
to the temple to be
presented to **God**.
Mary and **Joseph** took
Jesus to the temple to
see an old man called
Simeon. Simeon gave
blessings to God
for Jesus.

Luke 2:23-28



Where is the special place
for Jesus here?

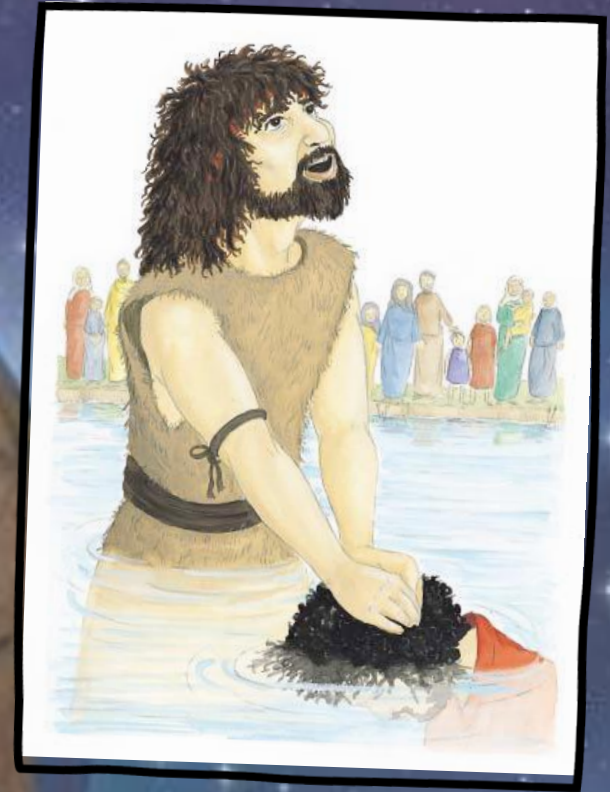
When **Joseph** and **Mary** had finished doing all that was required by the **law of the Lord**, they returned to their home town of **Nazareth** in Galilee. **Jesus** grew and became strong; he was full of **wisdom**, and **God's blessings** were upon him.

Luke 2:39-40



And he went and **lived** in a town called **Nazareth**

Matthew 2:23



Jesus came from **Nazareth** in **Galilee** and was **baptised** by **John the Baptist** in the **River Jordan**.

Mark 1:9

Where are the special places for Jesus here?



Questions to Discuss:

- Where were the special places for Jesus?
- Why were they special?
- Why do you think some of these places are still special and holy today?
- Why are these places so special for Christians today?

Task:

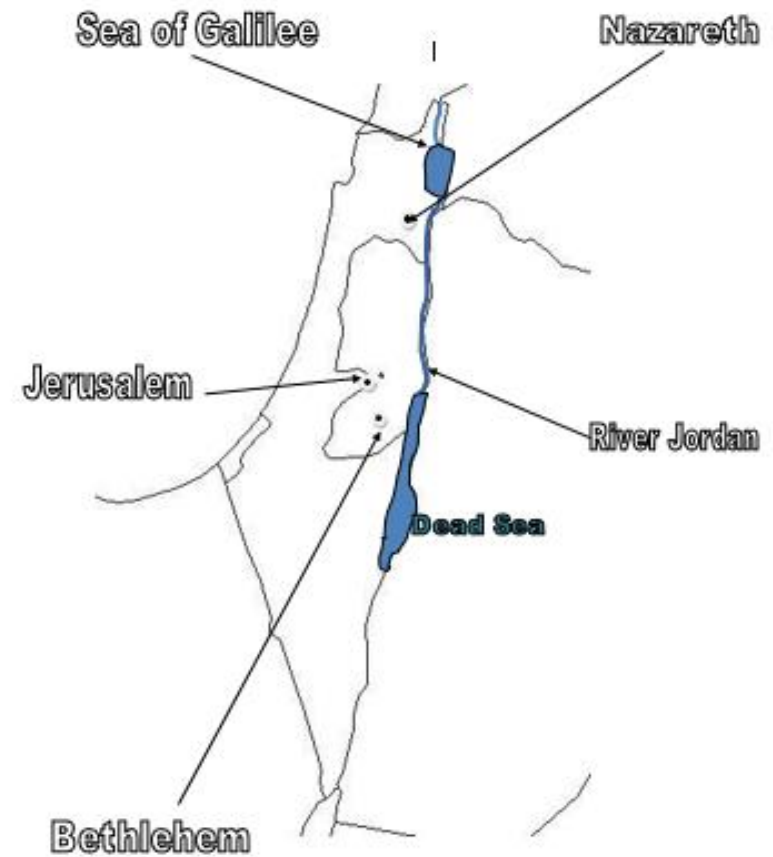
Use the map with all of the special places to Jesus marked on it. Label what happened there and write a sentence to describe why it is special to Jesus.

OR

Write and retell your favourite story about Jesus, from the slides you have just seen. Include where it happened, why it was special and explain why it is a special place for people today.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Map of Israel



Special Places for the Christian Community



Many countries around the world have their own places of pilgrimage. There are places of pilgrimage in England and Wales, for example:

Our Lady's shrine at Walsingham in Norfolk. This shrine honours the Annunciation and was one of the greatest shrines for Christians in medieval times – when travel to the Holy Land was very difficult.

Pilgrim:

A person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons.

Pilgrimage:

A journey, especially a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion: *a pilgrimage to Lourdes.*

Part of a pilgrimage to a special place is that it reminds people how important it is to pray and take time to think about what is important in their lives. Have a quiet moment with the children to reflect on God being with us always.

PILGRIMAGE

You will remember that the writer of Genesis expressed God's view of creation in the words 'And God saw that it was good'. That is why the Church calls people to be stewards of creation and to love and respect the world in which we live as a holy place. All through the history of humankind some places have become special because of the people who lived there and the events that happened there. When people make a special journey to such a holy place it is called a 'pilgrimage'. People go on pilgrimage for many different reasons: to walk in the footsteps of Jesus; to pray and reflect on a decision; in search of God; to share life and prayer during the pilgrimage; to be alongside others in their needs.

ROME

Many Catholics go on pilgrimage to Rome. They come to visit St. Peter's Basilica where, according to tradition, St. Peter is buried. St Peter's is in the Vatican City. The city takes its name from the Vatican, the home of the Pope.



Vatican City is an independent state within the city of Rome. In mediaeval times it had its own armies.

Nowadays, the Swiss guard are not a fighting force but a security force.



Above: View across Rome from the roof of St Peter's Basilica



Mother with her children in Nazareth today

THE HOLY LAND

Christians call the place where Jesus lived, died and rose from the dead the Holy Land.

BETHLEHEM

The little town where Jesus was born is larger today and in recent years has been the scene of fighting between Israelis and Palestinians.



The Church of the Nativity is built over the cave which has been visited for centuries as the birthplace of Jesus and where his coming into the world is marked by a star.

NAZARETH

The Basilica of the Annunciation marks the world-changing event of Mary's response to God's call.

JERUSALEM



The medieval walls of Jerusalem are still a thrilling sight for pilgrims from all over the world.

For Jewish people, the remains of the walls of Solomon's temple are a holy place for prayer.



For Muslims, the Dome of the Rock is one place of pilgrimage.

For Christians, the site of Calvary where Jesus died and rose again is a sacred place.

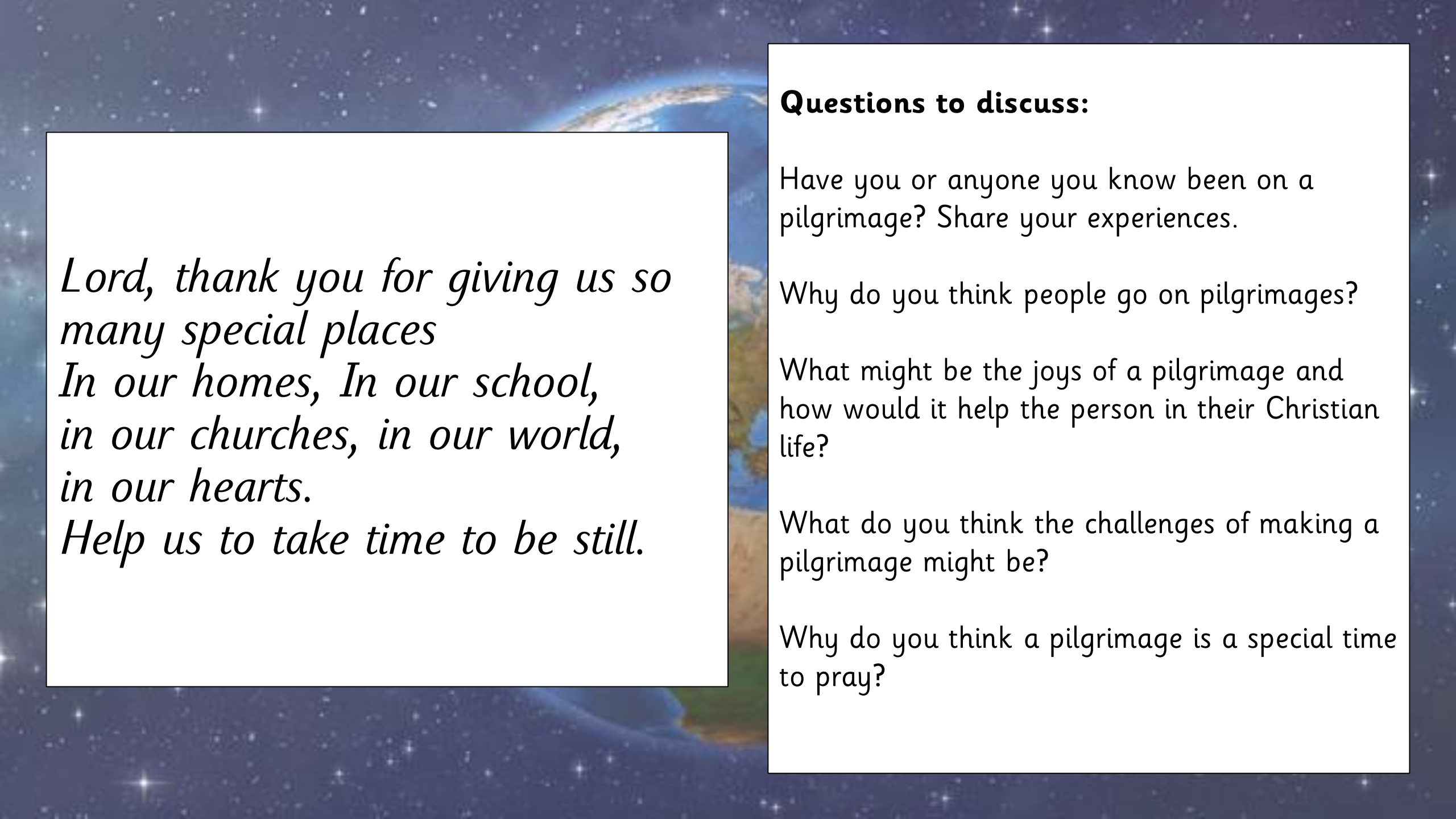


LOURDES

Lourdes is a town in South-Western France. Catholics believe that Mary appeared here to St. Bernadette in 1858.

Today, Lourdes is known throughout the world as a special place of pilgrimage for the sick.





*Lord, thank you for giving us so
many special places
In our homes, In our school,
in our churches, in our world,
in our hearts.
Help us to take time to be still.*

Questions to discuss:

Have you or anyone you know been on a pilgrimage? Share your experiences.

Why do you think people go on pilgrimages?

What might be the joys of a pilgrimage and how would it help the person in their Christian life?

What do you think the challenges of making a pilgrimage might be?

Why do you think a pilgrimage is a special time to pray?

Task:

On the internet, research one site of Christian pilgrimage – you could choose somewhere in England, or somewhere else in the world.

Create a poster to share on Class Dojo, including lots of information. Make sure you include information to show how people's beliefs affects their behaviour.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Lesson 3

Holy Places of Worship

It is possible today to visit many of the places associated with the life of Jesus in what Christians call the Holy Land.





The **new** thatched mud-wall **church** Lutaya in **Sudan**.



Procession through the streets of **São Paulo** in **Brazil**

Mass at a **chapel**
in Mindanao,
Philippines





Lighting a **candle** in
a **church** in **North
East Nigeria**



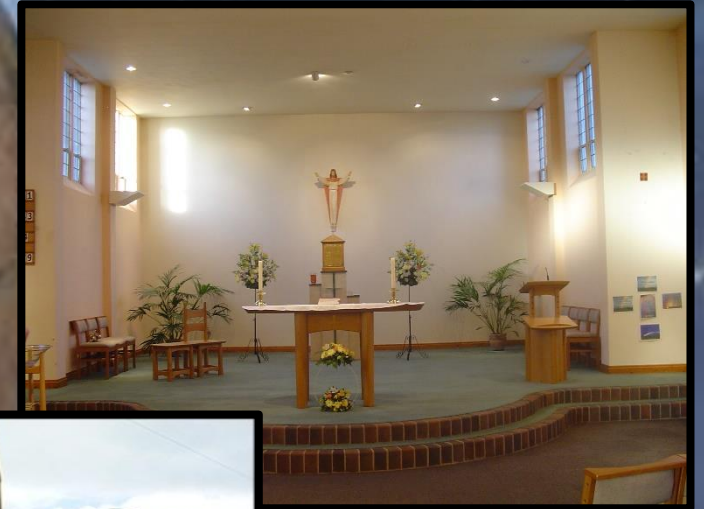
St Patrick's Church,
Manchester

St. Peter's
Basilica, Rome



What is your place of worship like?

Compare these places of worship with our own church buildings – what is the same? What is different?



All of these buildings are for worshipping the same God.

Questions to discuss:

What do you notice about these places of worship?

What is the same or different about them?

Why do you think people like to go to special places to worship?

What do you think makes somewhere holy?

Have you ever been to Mass or church in a different country? What was it like?

Have you ever been to a Mass not held in a church? What was it like?

Task:

Create a special place of prayer outside, using various materials. The prayer area could include a prayer focus and be an area of quiet reflection for the children to spend some time being still and quiet with God.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Lesson 4

The world as a special place for the Christian community



Our world is a special place,
given to us by God.

It was given to us to enjoy, to
share and to take care of.

**The earth is the Lord's
and everything in it,
The world, and all who live in it**

Psalm 24



The World is a Special Place



But what about this?



Or this?

CAFOD works alongside poor communities around the world to enable people to care for and protect God's world as a special place.



How can you help to keep our world a special place?

Questions to discuss:

Why is God's world so special?

How can you help to keep it special?

Why is it important for Christians to keep the world a special place?

How are some people stopping certain places from being special?

What can you do to change this?

What ideas do you have for making your school, classroom, home and God's world a place that is enjoyed, shared and cared for?

Task:

Look up the word *ecology*: it is about everything working in harmony, as God planned it.

Produce some ideas for bringing more harmony into our school environment e.g. grow something to enjoy and share, tidy a messy area etc.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Lesson 5

Respecting our world as a special place



Taking Action

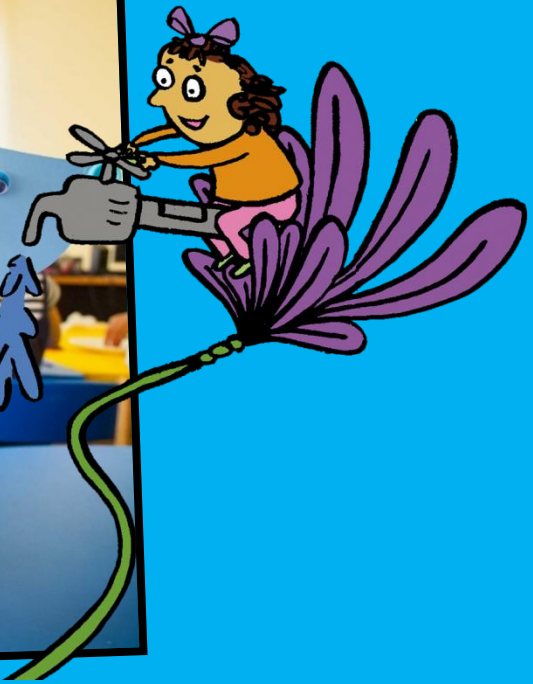
CAFOD
Just one world



These **children** believe that the **world** is a **special place** and that we have a responsibility to **help others** in our world.



Pupils at **Blessed Sacrament Primary School** in London encouraging fellow pupils to give something up for **Lent** and raise money for **charity!**



Mary and Waleed are from **Syria** and they are **refugees**. They **understand** that we need to remember that the **world** is a **special place** and that all children deserve to have a **home**.



Taking Action through Prayer



Loving God, you made
this special world for
us to protect and
preserve. Help us to
respect our world as
we learn to respect
our sisters and
brothers
everywhere.

Amen.



Taking action is a way that Catholics can live out what they **believe**.
What action can you take to preserve God's world?



Look at the **CAFOD website** to see how **other people** have **taken action** to keep this world a **special place** and find out how **you can get involved**.

www.cafod.org.uk



CAFOD
Just one world

Questions to discuss:

Why are these people taking action?

Name some of the different ways these children are showing respect for God's world.

Why is it important to think about our brothers and sisters around the world?

In what ways do people in some other parts of the world contribute to the way you live?

In what ways can we and our families contribute to the way of life of people in other parts of the world?

What action can you take to preserve God's world as a special place?

Task:

Write an acrostic poem using the letters of the words RESPECT at the start of each new line, linking this to how we look after God's world.

Share with us on Class Dojo!

Lesson 6

We have a special place in our hearts where God dwells

Share and discuss this scripture:

...the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Romans 5:5

God dwells in a special place in our hearts, and it is a special kind of prayer when we take time to think about God in our hearts.

Wherever we pray, God has a special place in our hearts.

*"the love of God has been poured
into our hearts by the Holy Spirit"*

Romans 5:5



Let's hear **Rosena's story**

My name is **Rosena**.

I am **11**.

I live in a **village**
in **Zambia**.



I used to **walk** for **five hours** every day to fetch
water.



Sometimes it took so long that I had to run for school and I was often late.



I had a lot of pain in my back and neck from carrying heavy buckets of water.





The **word** of **God** keeps
me **safe**.
Our **life** is full of
calamities and I
pray that God keeps
us **safe** and **well**.

Even in **difficult** times **Rosena** felt God in **her** heart.

CAFOD has recently **drilled** a well in Rosena's village, which **people** can use to **pump water** from deep **underground**.



Now **Rosena** can fetch **clean water** just **ten minutes** from her **home**.

This has made a **big difference** to her **life**.



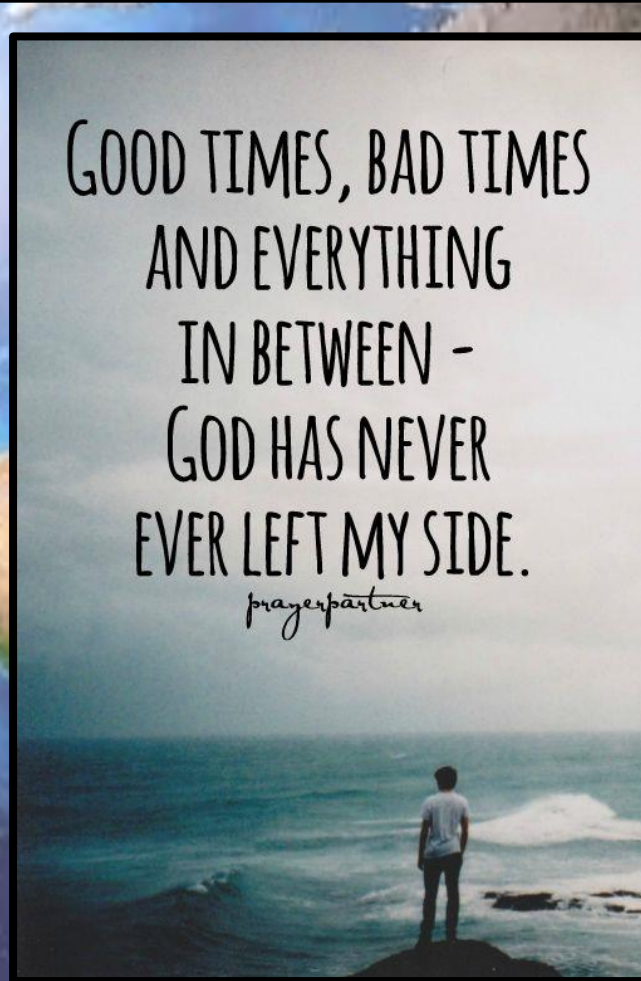
Who **helped** Rosena in **difficult** times?



When things were difficult for Rosena, she could still feel God in her heart, and the Word of God kept her safe.

God has a special place in our hearts in good times and difficult times.

GOOD TIMES, BAD TIMES
AND EVERYTHING
IN BETWEEN -
GOD HAS NEVER
EVER LEFT MY SIDE.
prayerpartner



Questions to discuss:

What was difficult for Rosena?

Who helped her in the difficult times?

What kind of things did Rosena do when she felt God close to her in her heart?

What kind of things do you do that help you feel God close in your heart?

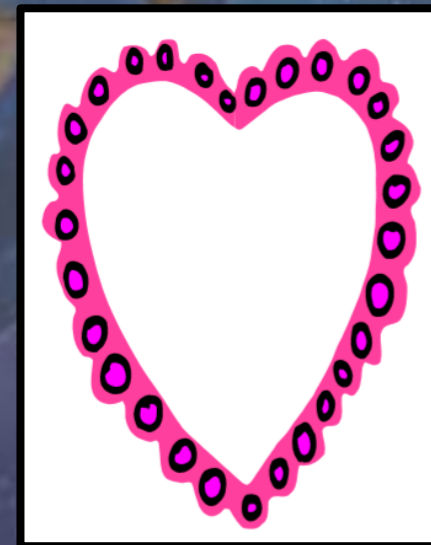
What would you like to tell Rosena about the good times and difficult times in your life?

Task:

God is always in our hearts. Gather together for a quiet moment to recognise the times you have been aware of God in your hearts, in good times and in difficult times.

Draw a heart, or print the heart resource from the online folder. Inside the heart, write a thank you prayer to God, for being in your heart. Include an example of a good time and a bad time.

Share with us on Class Dojo.



Lesson 7

Remembering, celebrating and responding to: everyone has a special place and special places for Jesus and for the Christian community

Remember

Start the session with a moment of quiet reflection.

Think about:

How do places become special?
What makes a place special?

Discuss:

- Where are special places for you?
- Where are the special places for your family?
- Where were the special places for Jesus?
- What does it mean to go on a pilgrimage and what effect does it have on a pilgrim?
- Why are Lourdes, Rome and Walsingham special places for the Christian community?
- Why do Christians want to keep the world a special place?
- How can you help to keep our world a special place?
- Why is our heart a special place?
- Where can we always find God?
- What did you learn from Rosena?

How can you help to make the world a special place?

Say this prayer together:

*God, thank you for having a special place in our hearts.
Help us to take time to be still,
To know that you are always there in good times
and difficult times.
Fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit.
Amen*

Share what we could do in the coming weeks to show how we and others are able to enjoy, to share and to take care of God's world.

Be sure to share all of your work with us on
Class Dojo!

