



Primary Collective Worship Resources

Guidelines

We believe that *our God speaks to us*, so we're offering materials to help primary school children experience God speaking to them through the Scriptures, and a variety of practical activities which can deepen their faith.

Each session is designed to last between 30-60 minutes depending on the age and ability of the children and the activity you choose.

The sessions include classroom activities and assemblies, which can be celebrated in the classroom or in an assembly hall.

Each session includes four steps.

1. A welcoming or gathering.
2. A reading from Scripture.
3. An activity or discussion about relevant aspects of our own lives today.
4. An activity or discussion to explore how the Scripture relates to our own lives.

Each session will include music, some of which will be familiar and most of which can be sung without accompaniment. In many cases, we suggest using just the refrain or one verse with the refrain suitable for children of this age.

Handouts are provided to help with the activity and to guide the children through the liturgies and rites. The materials are appropriate for Key Stages 1 and 2 (with alternatives offered in some sessions for one or the other stage).

Below is an example of each session's structure (for a small number of the sessions, the structure varies slightly from this to suit the needs of a particular topic.)

Step 1: We gather

This part of the session is intended to settle and focus the children and to introduce the core message of the session. A suggestion of music will often be made to help them settle and to set the atmosphere.

Step 2: What the Bible says

The children hear a reading from Scripture, usually using an amended and simplified version of the text, and a brief explanation about it so that the children get a sense of the context and meaning(s).

The Sacred Place. Some of the sessions refer to a Sacred Place. This could be your school's prayer space, prayer table or a similar suitable focal point. This is more central to some of the sessions than others. In some of the sessions, everything could be done in the same place without any movement.

Step 3: Our life experience

The next step explores something of the life experience of the children. It might be suitable to stay at the Sacred Place to do this, or you may prefer to return to a classroom if your Sacred Space is in another room, especially if this step involves a creative activity.

Step 4: How God's word affects our lives

This step makes the connection between the Bible reading and the children's own lives. This step is often less structured than the others to allow for more open discussion and to allow the children more scope in where they want it to go.