

Hope and Aspiration

Aim: To encourage everyone to be bringers of hope through responding to a need in the natural world.

Gathering:

Light candle – Jesus is our hope/*Let's draw near to him*

Ask: I wonder what you would do if someone left their pots at lunch time in the place where you are going to sit? Invite children to say how they would feel and to say why it matters that people clear away their pots after lunch.

Ask: I wonder how you would feel if you let someone borrow something that belonged to you and they spoil it or broke it? Why does it matter that people look after other people's things?

Point out that we all want things left as we found them, we want to be able to get something back and pass it on to someone else.

Engaging:

1. Tell the story of creation using the shorter version in Genesis 2 (selected verses). Be sure to include in the account that God put Adam and Eve in the garden to take care of it, to look after the earth. (If you have it you could use the 'Picturing Creation' pack from RE Today – pictures in the pack are available on a CD for display)
2. Explore the word 'Stewardship'. Have the letters displayed at the front and invite children to suggest something from the natural world that begins with each of the letters. If possible have someone record children's ideas.
3. If you can, play a clip from 'Blue Planet' or any other clip that shows some way in which humans are spoiling some part of creation. Before playing the clip ask everyone to think about what the clip shows is going wrong with the world.
4. Ask pupils to contribute their responses to your question. How does all this make them feel? What will happen if we don't do something to stop this sort of thing happening?

Responding

Prayer/Reflection

Ask everyone to pause for a moment and think about how all this makes them feel. Do they feel:

Sad? Angry? Unhappy?

Ask them to close their eyes and to think about the oceans or forests or whatever place you have focussed on in the Engaging section without those bad things there.

How does that make them feel?

Prayer: God, the world is not as it should be and sometimes we have forgotten to care about it. Help us to love your world as you do and to do what we can to make a difference to make the world a better place. Amen.

Sending

Challenge each class to think of a way in which as a class they can do something to help make things better. Set this as a challenge. All the classes should bring a proposal to you by collective worship time tomorrow. All their ideas will be considered and one will be chosen as something the whole school will be a part of. Point out that everyone will have to work together and be a 'courageous advocate' for the cause. (This means working hard to make something happen and telling other people about the issue)

Send everyone out with these words:

As we remember what we have learned/*Creator and Lord go with us*

As we commit to change/*Creator and Lord go with us*

As we try to care/*Creator and Lord go with us*

{Thanks to Nick Harding for the prayer. 'Worship Words' Pub Kevin Mayhew (2008)}

Everyone leaves singing a song. Choose one about creation or try one from Fischy Music 'Wonderful World'

Resources needed:

- Video clip from Blue Planet or a clip dealing with another issue of exploitation of the natural world
- Shorter version of creation story, including the command to Adam to care for the earth
- Pictures from 'Picturing Creation' (RE Today) (Optional)
- The letters STEWARDSHIP displayed

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