

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP PLAN

THEME 4: WORSHIPPING

SECONDARY CW PLAN: 2

AIM: TO CONTEMPLATE THE BEAUTY OF NATURE
- CAN THE NATURAL WORLD INSPIRE WORSHIP?

Gather

Play music as pupils enter the room, such as:

- Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
- Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You

Open the worship with a response such as: *The Lord is here*

Students: *His spirit is with us.*

Light a candle

Engage

- 1) "How many of you spent time in the park or countryside recently? Have a quick think - how does going outside in the fresh air make you feel?"
- 2) "Hands up - how many of you feel better for going outside, even if it's just for the break or part of lunchtime here in school?"
- 3) "We're going to look at some scenes from the natural world. While we watch, I'd like you to consider the effect that looking at these scenes is having on you." Show video.

Resources:

Video - www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHACKCNDMW8

4) "Now take a moment and reflect on your own about these videos of the natural world. Hands up if you liked them: if they made you feel more relaxed: if you felt less stressed?"

5) "Many people think that going outside, connecting with nature if you like, is generally good for us, and for some people there is research indicating that they need to be outside to worship.*"

**(David Csinos, International Journal of Children's Spirituality Issue 3 August 2009 , pages 213 - 224)*

6) "So this morning, we're not able to go outside but we're going to try our best to engage in some worship that uses the same sort of experience."

7) "I'm going to show the video again, but this time, we're all just going to be silent as we watch, and I'd like you to try and still all that inner chatter of thought, and use these slides as a meditation on the beauty of the world. When we've done that, I'd like us to hold the silence for a while."

Respond

1) Watch the video with sound again. At the end, extend the silence for as long as you can.

2) "Thank you. We're not going to have a prayer as such today, but we are going to listen to a passage from the bible"

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.' So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

"May we today be aware of the God who travels with us, whom we worship as a school, and who many of us are more aware of when we are outside. Amen."

Send

As we go through our day, let's remember that feeling that we had when looking at the natural world, and try to keep that deep sense of calm and tranquility."

Play the music as the students leave.