

Tutor Group Worship:

3 ideas for day 1

Idea 1: Examen

Lead the class in a 'Heart for the Earth' inspired examen (see end of this document for guide). If the weather is favourable, why not do this outside?

Idea 2: Speed dating

Begin with normal gathering routines for tutor group-based worship. Organise the chairs into two lines so that pupils are facing each other. Provide pupils with a statement below to discuss for one minute. Then ask pupils in one row to move down a specified amount (e.g. two places) so they are speaking with a different peer. Repeat with a number of statements from the list below.

- We are facing a climate emergency at the moment: what do you think are some of the main things causing this?
- Humans are not powerful enough to change the climate. Agree? Disagree? Bit of both?
- What do you think of the view that humans are superior to other species? Do you think this view has contributed to today's environmental issues?
- Out of ten, how worried are you about climate change. Why this score?
- Finish the sentence: if we are serious about climate change, we need to...
- How could we use less electricity in school and at home?
- We don't have to worry about climate change. Climate change only affects faraway places

- Positive quote: *'Know that you are incredibly lucky to be alive at a time when you can make a transformative difference to the future of all life on Earth. You are not powerless. Your every action is suffused with meaning and you are part of the greatest chapter of human achievement in history'* (Christiana Figueres, *The Future You Choose* (2020)). **Discuss - what do you think?**

Finish with a time for prayer and reflection. One idea is to invite pupils to trace on the palm of their hand worries, hopes and commitments for the planet. These sentences might start:

'My main hope for planet earth is...'

'My main worry about planet earth is...'

'This week, I would like to show a heart for the earth by...'

Pupils could trace the sentence stem or just the sentence ending.

For those pupils who would wish to, they could start their tracing reflections with, 'Dear God, ...' to make this a prayer.

Idea 3: a creative expression

Everyone reflects spiritually in different ways. This activity allows those who connect with self, world, others and God through creative activity to do so. It follows the key ideas (a 'dominion' worldview vs a 'community of creation' worldview) explored in the first collective worship plan as part of the Heart for the Earth resources (see 'Heart for the Earth' overview, pages 4-5 and collective worship plan one).

Begin with normal gathering routines for tutor group worship. Remind students of the 'dominion' and 'community of creation' ideas which were explored in a previous collective worship. Then, show the quote from Anthony G. Reddie:

'We have to dispense with one theology and pick up another. We need to dispense with what is called 'dominion theology'. That's the idea that God has given us dominion of the earth for us to do what we like with it. It's a misreading, but even if it were accurate, it needs to come to an end. We are custodians of something that we did not create. Once we exploit it, we can't re-create it'

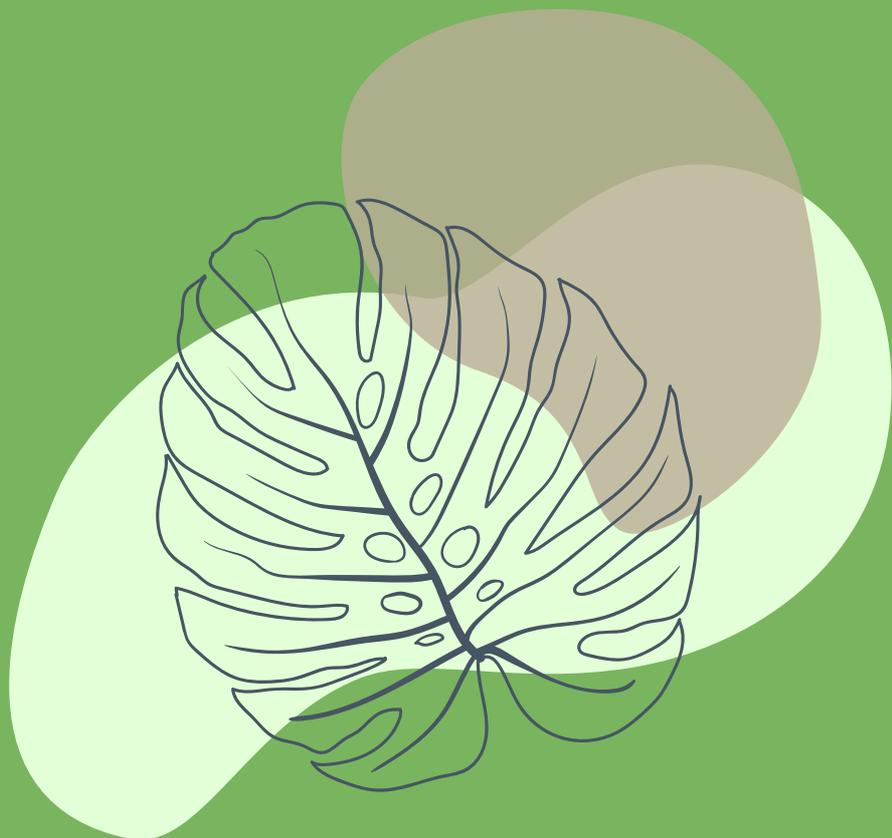
Invite students to reflect upon the word or phrase which stands out to them the most.

After this, invite students to use the playdough to create a sculpture which demonstrates one of the following:

- their hopes for planet earth
- their concerns for planet earth
- a phrase which resonated with them from the quote above
- something else which expresses their heart for the earth

Reflective music may be played as students sculpt these.

After a time in sculpture, give students a period of time to silently reflect upon the themes they considered in their sculpture. If they would like to, students may wish to commit these thoughts to God in prayer.





PLUG-IN-AND-PLAY



Find a place to be still and silent: Ready yourself for reflection.

You might like to ask God to help you review your day so far.



Pause and be still: Think about the present.

Take some slow breaths.

What do you notice around you? What can you hear? What can you feel?
Spend some time being grateful for the world around you.



Rewind: Review your day so far.

How has your heart for the earth been seen today?

Has it been seen in your thoughts?

Has it been seen in your actions?

Spend a bit of time being thankful for the wonderful earth; if you'd like to, thank God for creation.



Were there moments where you didn't show a heart for the earth?

Whatever these moments were, remember that you are precious to God and nothing ever changes that. Think about what you might do differently should that situation occur again.

Is there anything you would you like to leave with God and say sorry for?



Fast forward: Imagine the future.

Think about the rest of the day. How might you show a heart for the earth? Is there anything you would like God to help you with?

If you'd like to, talk to God about it now and ask God to be with you through your day.



Play: Resolve to live well for the rest of the day.

What has been the main thing you have taken away from your reflection? How has it helped you as you continue your day?