



The Diocese of
Canterbury

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

TERM 4/YEAR 1 /WEEK 1/ THE SEA

The inspiration for this term comes from the reflective resource, Pause for Reflection (available from the Diocese of Gloucester, Jumping Fish resources). This resource suggests creative and interactive ways to encourage spiritual reflection – this term’s worship is based upon the idea of ‘Tide’ from the pack. A display (see Pause for Reflection card 7) might be prepared in advance or built up more gradually as the theme progresses with an opportunity for pupils to offer their prayers in an active way.

SEAL link – Good to be me

Values link - Thankfulness

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Display a variety of different and contrasting images of the sea/seas. Always tell the pupils where in the world the picture(s) of the day was taken</p> <p>Possible music to listen to might include Britten’s Sea Interludes or Saint-Saens Carnival of The Animals (Aquarium) or Vaughan Williams Sea Symphony or Debussy La Mer</p>	<p>GOD CREATES THE OCEANS (whole school) Genesis 1 v 9 and 21 The sea is a place which inspires awe and wonder. The use of images from the internet etc might be used to reflect upon the sheer scale of the oceans and also the richness and diversity of life within the oceans. The beautiful images created for ‘Finding Nemo’ viewed without any commentary or with appropriate background music would add to pupils’ awe and wonder. Alternatively ‘awe and wonder’ undersea footage of all sorts may be available. The sea is a place of mystery – there are depths which are too great for humans to reach and this increases our sense of the unknown. God, our creator, has much in common with the oceans – in vastness being both wholly accessible and also a mystery beyond knowing. Also introduce the display (see above) if this is being created.</p> <p>THE POWER OF THE SEA (whole school) Exodus 14 v 10-31 Tell the story – there is much scope for drama here and/or use of ‘The prince of Egypt’ DVD. It is important to explain how much danger there was for the Israelites. As well as a place of beauty and mystery, the sea is very powerful. In the story of Moses and the Israelites at the Red Sea, there is the sense of God’s power as the sea is held back but also the power of the sea as it sweeps over the Egyptians so that the Israelites are protected. God is still powerful and God still protects us today.</p> <p>JESUS APPEARS BY THE SEA OF GALILEE (whole school) John 21 v 1-13 The sea of Galilee is actually a large lake (Lake Tiberius). It is a place around which Jesus carried out much of his earthly ministry. It provided employment for those disciples who were fishermen. In St John’s Gospel, Jesus’ third resurrection appearance is on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Before Jesus appears, a long fishing expedition has produced nothing – when Jesus appears 153 fish are caught but without breaking the net. The</p>	<p>Use the music suggested in ‘Gather’ together with images from ‘Engage’ to encourage pupils to reflect upon the wonder of the oceans and be thankful through prayer for their importance in the world</p> <p>Use talking partners to allow pupils to tell each other what they like the best about the sea</p> <p>God grant us the strength to voyage on. Give us the courage to believe in your kingdom, in your light in our darkness, and your love in our lives. For Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen</p> <p>(from The Mission to Seafarers website)</p>	<p>A blessing prayer based on Psalm 46 v 4 ‘God’s blessings are like the sea, may they fill our school with joy today and for evermore’. Amen</p>

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	<p>disciples share a meal of bread and fish with Jesus – he is with them again in the normal events of everyday life. Why is it important that Jesus is with people through all of their experiences, both ordinary and extraordinary? Encourage pupils to remember that Jesus is always with them and to be thankful for that promise.</p>	<p>Ask pupils to bring things to contribute to the display – ‘wow’ pictures of amazing seas or sea life, shells, pebbles from the beach etc so that they continue to think and respond beyond the time of worship</p> <p>Lord, my ship is so small and your sea is so big "<i>We are as near to heaven by sea as by land!</i>" (Sir Humphrey Gilbert)</p> <p>‘Lord, my ship is so small and your sea is so big’. Build up this sentence as suggested in ‘Engage’. Encourage pupils to be thankful for God’s care for each of his ‘tiny’ people in his vast world.</p>	
	<p>THE SEA OF LIFE (Key Stage or class worship) Matthew 6 v 25-34 Find an image of a tiny boat on a huge expanse of sea and ask pupils what thoughts they have about the image. Ask older pupils what ideas about life they might have looking at this picture, and what it might teach us about God and our relationship with God. Look at the Bible passage and think about the important and not so important things in life. How can we make sure we get the big and little things in the right order and priority? With younger pupils, encourage some awe and wonder at the little boat and big sea. Make a magnetic fishing game with the words on the right . Catch the fish (words – Lord, my ship is so small and your sea is so big) and put them in the right order to make the prayer. Say a thank you prayer that God is so big but still cares for all of us.</p>		