

DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

TERM 4/YEAR 1 WEEK 3 REFLECTING ON THE SEA AS WILD AND STORMY

The sea is not only calm and serene on a summer’s day – it can be wild and stormy. In the case of the Sea of Galilee, storms were sudden and unexpected. Other disasters such as the Tsunami in 2004 are a reminder of the destructive power of the sea as are descriptions of those who work for organisations such as the RNLI
 SEAL link – Going for Goals (overcoming any fears you might have) Values link – Trust

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Possible music 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>Try to show the contrast between storm and calm through music</p>	<p>JONAH IN THE STORM Jonah 2 Tell the story of Jonah perhaps using a version where pupils join in with key words eg Jonah (cover face to try and hide from God), sea (make sound or mime waves), big fish (open and close mouth) etc. There are also some short versions of this story on Youtube but make sure you check them out before using them. In this Old Testament story, the sea became calm when the sailors threw Jonah into the stormy sea. It was then that he was swallowed by the big fish. It was only when Jonah was really penitent inside the big fish that he could pray to God and say that he was sorry for disobeying God. In this prayer, Jonah talks about the “rolling waves sweeping over me” and how he almost drowned. Sometimes pictures help people to see and appreciate how blessed they are – the images of both calm and stormy seas can do that.</p>	<p>Take time to think about the importance of saying ‘sorry’ either keep silence or provide quiet music for pupils to think about things for which they need to say sorry or use a prayer eg <i>Jesus, in you I find rest and peace. I can talk to you about anything – My worries and my fears, My happiness and sadness, My anger and disappointment. You always listen and you always understand.</i> <i>Thank you that you reassure us of your love. (Fresh Expressions website)</i></p> <p>Invite pupils to add a Lego brick to build a sturdy house on a firm foundation as they leave worship to remind them of the message of the parable.</p> <p>Use these quotations of Newton to</p>	<p>Say this blessing for each other every day this week (see also week 1):</p> <p>Dear God, be good to us today; The sea is so wide, and our boat is so small. Thank you that you are with us today and always. Amen</p>
	<p>THE WISE AND FOOLISH BUILDERS Matthew 7 v 24-27 Find a way of showing this practically using Lego, building blocks, Jenga etc. Alternatively, there is also a great visual version of this with music only in a different cultural context (www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKCTag9-Bz) which is well worth taking the trouble to find and use. Explore the message of the two builders without giving the ‘answer’ . What does this parable help us to understand about life when the storms (challenges) come and hit us hard? What is it that will save our ‘house’ (keep us grounded and secure)?</p>		
	<p>GOD’S GRACE IN THE STORM (whole school) John Newton was born in London July 24, 1725, the son of a commander of a merchant ship which sailed the Mediterranean. When John was eleven, he went to sea with his father and made six voyages with him before the elder Newton retired. Although he had had some early religious instruction from his mother, who had died when he was a child, he had long since given up any religious convictions. However,</p>		

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	<p>on a homeward voyage later in his life, while he was attempting to steer the ship through a violent storm, he experienced what he was to refer to later as his "great deliverance." He recorded in his journal that when all seemed lost and the ship would surely sink, he exclaimed, "Lord, have mercy upon us." Later in his cabin he reflected on what he had said and began to believe that God had addressed him through the storm and that grace had begun to work for him. Look up an appropriate version of his life in which he did so much good because of his faith and God's 'amazing grace'.</p>	<p>help with prayer and reflection:</p> <p><i>Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.</i></p> <p><i>I am not what I ought to be. I am not what I want to be. I am not what I hope to be. But still, I am not what I used to be. And by the grace of God, I am what I am.</i></p> <p>Let nothing disturb you, nothing alarm you: While all things fade away, God is unchanging, Be patient and you will gain everything, For with God in your heart, nothing is lacking, God meets your every need. (St Teresa of Avila, 1515-1582)</p>	
	<p>A PERSONAL RESPONSE IN THE STORM (Key Stage or class worship) Matthew 14 v 22-34 In this passage Jesus is not in the boat with his disciples but he comes to them when they are being blown off course by the wind. This time it is the faith of an individual (Peter) which is tested by Jesus, and Peter is able to respond, although he falters to begin with. For Christians, faith is ultimately a matter of putting your hand into that of Jesus and trusting in his power to save. What happened when Peter doubted Jesus? Is this encouraging for Christians today? When Jesus gets in the boat, the storm ceases. Explore the ideas that when we have Jesus "in our boat" the storms of life will be calmed. This can be explored in different ways depending on the age group – practically using the water tray with a younger group or by using a painting or picture of this episode with older pupils (several are available on the web)</p>		