



DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

TERM 1/YEAR 2 / WEEK 1 -CELEBRATE ABRAHAM’S JOURNEY WITH GOD

| GATHER | ENGAGE | RESPOND | SEND |
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| <p>Use a search engine and find an appropriate picture of a school <u>or</u> display a picture of your school.</p> | <p>GOD’S FRIENDSHIP WITH ABRAHAM Leader: Have any of you ever moved house or school or both? How did you feel? Perhaps excited, maybe sad at leaving family and friends behind. But then you met new friends and came to a new school. Eventually you do settle down again and begin to enjoy your new surroundings.</p> <p>Abraham lived in a city called Haran in the country we now know as Iraq. One day God asked Abraham to travel to a new land called Canaan. He was 75 years old and he had a wife Sarai, family and lots of animals. In the city of Haran he was a wealthy man. Beyond Haran lay desert and wilderness! This was a very big thing for Abraham to do. He really had to trust God. When Abraham arrived in Canaan, he built an altar to worship God and thank Him. This was very important to Abraham and through his worship of God and listening to God, he started to really get to know God better and trust Him even more.</p> <p>Do you think worship is important to us? Why? Why is it important to God?</p> <p>Reading: Genesis 12: 1-3 & 4-9</p> | <p>Hymn: Hide Me Now Abraham, Abraham (To the tune of Three Blind Mice)</p> <p>Prayer: Suitable prayers to support this theme can be found in The Lion Book of Prayers for Children.</p> | <p>How many ways can you think of to get to know God better? Put your ideas in the box on the worship table.</p> |
| <p>Use a search engine to find a picture of the night sky to display.</p> | <p>GOD’S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM Leader: God promised Abraham a new land – Canaan. Today this is known as Israel. Have you ever heard of Israel? Perhaps in the news? Where do you think it is? Use a map/ globe to show its location.</p> <p>God also promised Abraham that he would become the father of a great nation. However, Abraham was old. He had no land and he had no children. How was</p> | <p>Hymn: Over All the Earth You Reign on High</p> <p>Prayer: A suitable prayer can be found in The Lion Book of Prayers for Children by Sue Atkinson.</p> | <p>Think about a promise that might have made to God and whether or not you have kept it.</p> <p>A set ritual for leaving eg:</p> |

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| <p>Leader: This is the day that the Lord had made. Response: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.</p> | <p>God going to keep this promise?</p> <p>Have you ever made any promises? Have you been able to keep them? We should only make promises that we can keep! Can you think of a promise you know you can't keep and one you can keep? In talk partners share your ideas. Tell the children of a promise that you can't keep and a promise which you can. Sometimes God gave a reminder about a promise he had given. Every time Abraham looked up at the stars, he would be reminded about God's promise that God would make him the father of a great nation. Can you think of another Bible story where God gave a sign as a promise? [Moses and the rainbow as a sign that God would not flood the land again.]</p> <p>Reading: Genesis 15 1-6</p> | <p>Hymn: One More Step Along the Road I Go</p> <p>Prayer: From The Iona Community:</p> <p>God the Father, bless us; God the Son, defend us; God the Spirit, keep us Now and evermore.</p> <p><i>Author unknown</i></p> | <p>a blessing/extinguishing the candle/children singing</p> <p>Think of Sarah's response to Abraham – she lied about laughing because she was afraid. It's very easy to lie, to deny something you have done and if you find yourself in this position today try to tell the truth.</p> |
| | <p>GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE</p> <p>Leader: Has anyone ever made a promise to you that you have not believed? Discuss this in talking partners. Ask for some examples from the children. Sarah, Abraham's wife was told that she was going to have a baby. She didn't believe that she would because she was very old. But God is full of surprises and Sarah did have a baby, and she and Abraham called him Isaac. Do we have any Isaac's in school? The name Isaac means laughter. That is because when God told Sarah that she would have a baby, she laughed. Why do you think she laughed? When Isaac grew up he married Rebecca and they had children too. So eventually, God's promise to Abraham became true and he did become the father of Israel through his children and grandchildren and great grandchildren through many generations. Sometimes it is hard to believe promises and sometimes when people make promises they are not kept! But God always keeps his promises. Is it important that we only make promises we can keep? Why?</p> <p>Reading: Genesis 18: 1-15, 21 1-7</p> | | |

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| | <p>Have 6 children prepared to mime the story as it is read. (Abraham, 3 visitors, servant, Sarah and doll for baby Isaac)</p> <p>Leader: The importance of faith on the journey Take a chair. Ask the children if they believe the chair will take their weight when they sit down. They may believe it will but faith is actually being willing to sit on it and test it out.</p> <p>Tell the story of Charles Blondin, who walked the tightrope across Niagra Falls with a wheelbarrow. Use IWB or OHP to show image of Blondin pushing a wheelbarrow across Niagra Falls. Having faith in Blondin would have meant getting in the wheelbarrow!</p> <p>Abraham had faith in God, that he could trust him wherever God took him. As he gradually knew God better and better that faith and trust grew.</p> <p>On our journey through life, sometimes things will be easy and straight forward. Other times we will meet problems and difficulties. We need to remember that just like Abraham, God is always by our side. Bible Reading: Genesis 24 1-66 Use a children's version of the story or pick out the important points and paraphrase it yourself.</p> | <p>Use an appropriate picture to display. A search engine will provide appropriate examples if you enter – Footprints Poem.</p> <p>Use 3 readers to read the following poem.</p> <p>Reader 1: One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.</p> <p>In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was one only.</p> <p>This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints, so I</p> | <p>Can you think of any times in your life when you have needed God to carry you?</p> <p>Resources: Cracking Assemblies 2 p 25</p> |
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The Diocese of
Canterbury



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| | | <p>said to the Lord,</p> <p>Reader 2 "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?"</p> <p>Reader 1: The Lord replied,</p> <p>Reader 3: "The years when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."</p> <p>Mary Stevenson, 1936</p> | |
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