

**TERM 2/YEAR 2 /WEEK 2**

**CELEBRATE JESUS' TEACHING FOR LIFE'S JOURNEY**

Jesus' parables help us to understand more about God the Father. Through them, Jesus shows his followers how God the Father wants us to live our lives as his children. The messages within the parables are timeless ones which can help us to live our day to day lives more wisely and which help us to make good progress on life's journey. There are also times when Jesus gives important teaching when significant events take place.

SEAL link - Relationships

Values link - Service

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>This is the day which the Lord has made</p> <p><b>Let us rejoice and be glad in it</b></p> <p>OR</p>	<p><b>The Parable of the Sheep and Goats</b> <b>Matthew 25 v 31-45</b></p> <p>Set up a short drama of a journey in which you meet different people on a journey – these people could wear costumes/hold props or labels to show who they are – people who are asking for food, asking for a drink, homeless needing somewhere to stay, sick needing care and in prison needing a friend to visit. Say 'no' to each of them. Send someone else on the same journey who helps each of the people. Talk about what has happened and why someone might not help whilst another person chooses to do so. What sort of people might we meet on our journey of life who need our help?</p> <p>Read the parable and talk about how we should Jesus in the people around us – if we meet 'Jesus' on our journey, would we help?</p>	<p>Use images of different kinds of need in the wider world – sing the Taize chant 'O Lord hear our prayer' as you encourage reflection on the images and prayer for those having a difficult journey through life</p>	<p>The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen</p>
<p>Lord, direct our thoughts and teach us to pray</p> <p><b>though Jesus Christ our Lord Amen</b></p> <p>OR</p>	<p><b>Jesus and the woman at Bethany</b> <b>Matthew 26 v 7 – 13</b></p> <p>Show the pupils a bottle of expensive perfume. How much did this small bottle cost? This would last for a long time and you would use a little bit at a time.</p> <p>Tell the story of the woman at Bethany – she poured all of her expensive perfume on the head of Jesus. This was to show how much she loved Jesus – she would have saved for a long time to buy the perfume and then she poured it out all at once.</p> <p>'Interview' some people who were there for a news report: What happened? Were you surprised? Were you shocked? What did you think of this woman?</p> <p>Some people thought that this was wasteful because there were lots of poor people who could have been helped if the perfume had been sold. Sometimes we are criticised for things which we do on our journey through life – we need to be sure that we act out of love. Sometimes, it is costly to do the right thing especially if other people are critical, but this teaching of Jesus shows how much the right sort of costly sacrifice should be valued.</p>	<p><b>A Prayer of St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)</b></p> <p>Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will.</p>	<p>OR</p> <p>Ask pupil worship leaders to write a new blessing prayer or a new blessing response to be said together</p>

**DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK**

<p>I am the light of the world, says the Lord. <b>Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.</b></p>	<p><b>The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector</b> <b>Luke 18 v 9-14</b> Prepare a short drama – pupil worship leaders could be given this task. It should be very exaggerated with the Pharisee as very proud and bragging and talking about all the important things he does and all the righteous things he does. Contrast this with the tax collector who knows that he does wrong but who is very sorry and confesses what he had done. Ask pupils which character they like the best and why. Are we like the Pharisee or the tax collector? Which is the better example to follow on our life's journey? Explore how we might understand the mistakes of others if we are realistic about our own mistakes and weaknesses. Take some time to say sorry to God for wrong thoughts, action and attitudes in a time of quiet.</p>	<p><b>A Prayer of Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)</b> Take from us, O God, all pride and vanity, all boasting and self-assertion, and give us the true courage that shows itself in gentleness, the true wisdom that shows itself in simplicity, and the true power that shows itself in modesty.</p> <p>Ask pupil worship leaders to design a 'prayer sheep' – a simple outline of a sheep with a simple prayer Eg Lord Jesus, help us to stay close to you, our loving Shepherd. Give each child a small image of this to help them to pray the prayer.</p>	
	<p><b>The Parable of the Lost Sheep</b> <b>Luke 15 v 4-7</b> If possible watch this version of the parable <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyWZeOlaRo4">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyWZeOlaRo4</a> (max 7 animation) Read an appropriate Bible version. Think about the dangers to the 99 sheep left behind by the shepherd. What could have happened to them? – robbers, wild animals, strayed away? Why risk all that for just one lost sheep? It seems rather 'over the top'. This is because God is like the shepherd and he cares for each and every person and will take risks and do all that he can to bring us back to him if we stray away from him. We may be going along on our journey with God but then find that we have moved away and are 'lost'. The parable says that God wants us to return to a journey which is accompanied by him and in which we experience the love of God.</p>		