

Principles behind these Acts of Collective Worship

Each week is based on the Gospel reading (with the exception of week 5 KS2 – Raising of Lazarus)

Themes for the weeks are:

Wk 1	Temptation
Wk 2	New Life (transforming)
Wk 3	Being an outcast (special people)
Wk 4	Being controversial
Wk 5	Hope

Each week has a 'word of the week' which could be displayed around the school and emphasized throughout the curriculum

Wk 1	tempt (or temptation KS2)
Wk 2	transform
Wk 3	outcast
Wk 4	controversial
Wk 5	Easter

The acts of worship can stand alone, but it is hoped that they will be used as a weekly input by either staff or someone from the local church (clergy or lay). They are designed to be picked up and used in their entirety by busy people with limited time to prepare **OR** simply to be used as springboards for personal adaptation. They are certainly **not** meant to be prescriptive.

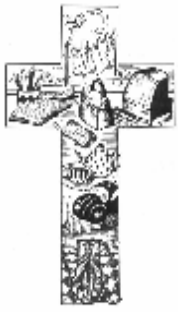
Although these can be used with the minimum of preparation, please do go through them enough in advance to do both the children and yourself justice. If you are not comfortable with the material and prepared for the worship, it will not work!

Resources to be found in Church House Resource Centre

(Please Note – there are limited numbers of these resources – please contact the resource centre at Church House in Wakefield)

KS1	Wk2	-	Cinderella / faces
KS1	Wk3	-	picture of street child
KS1	Palm Sunday	-	donkey puppets
KS2	Wk3	-	Shrek poster

Other resources suggested will need to be home-grown. Please plan ahead!



Transforming Lives - Collective Worship

Matthew 4: 1-11 - Temptations

Resources

A4 sheets with the letters of TEMPT on each one (i.e. 5 sheets one letter each)
Bible open at Matthew 4: 1-11 (know which verses you are going to select and paraphrase)

Opening

I wonder how good you are at imagining things.....

Invite the children to close their eyes and 'see' the following scenarios in their heads

- An opened packet of chocolate biscuits - just suppose it was nearly your tea time, I wonder what you might do if you saw these on the side.....
- You're lining up for playtime and you want to get out quickly. There's someone smaller and slower in front of you. I wonder what you might be 'tempted' to do (*emphasize 'tempted'*)
- Child on one side of road and ball bouncing to other side - I wonder what that boy / is going to do..... (invite suggestions)
- A large bottle of your favourite pop - Imagine you were really hot and thirsty. I wonder what you might do

Development

Develop through question and answer what would have been the right thing to do in each of the above situations and what would have been the wrong thing to do. I wonder why would they have been wrong?

I wonder if there's anyone here who can think of a word which begins with 't' and means when you really want to do something and you know you shouldn't. (*It's highly possible you might not get the answer! Use the letters one at a time and get the children to come and hold them up. "Can anyone tell me what this word says..... Let's sound it out together". Be ready to tell them the word and then ask if anyone has heard it before - explain it again*)

I wonder if there's anyone here who has been tempted to do something they shouldn't

(invite response)
How did you feel after you'd done it - or if you'd beaten the 'temptation'?

Who's heard of Jesus? (hands up only!)

Briefly explain that Jesus was tempted to do things that would have let him down. For KS1 Choose only one of the temptations - use the one which your children will most associate with (*If you're in a school with Muslim children whose family members fast, they might associate well with the first temptation. Develop the option you choose by opening the Bible and reading the appropriate verse from it. Explaining the temptation and ask why the children thought Jesus 'resisted' it*)

- Didn't turn the stones into bread because he wanted to keep thinking about God and not worry about his food
- Who's been tempted to show off?! Well Jesus was tempted to show off to get people to think he was really good, but he didn't. He wanted people to like him for the right reasons.

- Who thinks being a very powerful leader would be the best thing in the world?
Jesus knew that people would only follow him if they knew he was a good man.

Conclusion

Who finds it hard not to be tempted? Me too! Let's say a prayer and ask God to help us when we are tempted to do things we shouldn't. Can you say the words after me?

Dear God,/ please help me to be strong / when I am tempted./ Help me to choose the right things./ Amen

Word of the week

tempt

Transforming Lives - Collective Worship



John 3:1-12 - New Life

Week Two - KS1

Theme of 'transforming'

Resources – Bible

'Cinderella doll' (i.e. one which goes from before to after midnight!)

Big grumpy face on stick (placed on one side of you)

Big smiley face on stick (placed on the other side of you)

Opening

I wonder if anyone can guess what I've got in here. (get *Cinderella doll* out of a closed bag so that it's a surprise) Does anybody know who this is? Can anyone tell me why we've got two 'Cinderellas' in one person?

Cinderella was changed by magic, and this is only a story, but I wonder if people can I wonder if real people can be changed. There's a really posh word for being changed - 'transformed' – can you

say it with me Transformed.... I wonder if real people can change – can be 'transformed' – can anyone think of a way people might be transformed.....

Has anybody here started the day – any day, not just day, feeling very grumpy and then, as the day has gone on, got less and less grumpy until they feel really happy? I wonder what made you change –(invite response. If there is little response tell them about what has made you happier during a day e.g. friendly people, sunshine, nice letter, etc etc)

Development

There's a story in the Bible about a man who changed. He wasn't grumpy, but he did want to change the way he thought about things.(Open Bible as though reading from it and tell the story) A man called Nicodemus went to Jesus and said 'How can I get to know more about God?' Jesus said to him, 'You've got to try to imagine what God wants you to do. You must try to get to know God better by thinking about him in everything you do.' (Close Bible)

I wonder what Jesus meant by that..... (invite response)

I wonder how we might think about God in everything we do.

Hands up if you think God wants a grumpy, bossy person. *Point to/ hold up grumpy face*

Hands up if you think God wants a smiley, helpful person. *Point to / hold up smiley face*

Conclusion

Sometimes we're not always happy with the way we're feeling. We don't really like being sad and grumpy, but sometimes it just happens. Sometimes we can even be mean and horrible to those around us, and it's not nice for them and it's not nice for us. When we feel that we need to change, one way is to do what Jesus told Nicodemus to do. To ask God to help us and to become the person

he wants us to be and the person our friends want us to be.

Let's say a prayer and ask God to help us. Please say the words after me

Dear God,/ sometimes we are not nice people./ Help us to be more like Jesus / and to show your love / in everything we do./ Amen.

Word of the week

transform



Transforming Lives - Collective Worship

John 4: 5 - 15, 25 - 30 Being an outcast

Week Three - KS1

Theme of special people

Resources -

Bible

Big pictures of people including some from other cultures and at least one 'social outcast'.

You might include a picture of a 'street child'

Picture of someone drawing water from a well (if poss.)

Opening

I've got some pictures to show you. (*As you show each picture get a taller child to come and hold it up at the front for all to see. Talk briefly about the pictures you show, inviting comment / response from the children.*)

Development

I wonder who you'd choose to sit next to and share a drink with.....(*invite response - gently push for reasons as to their choices*)

Sometimes it's easier stick with our friends and not go to talk to people we don't know. I think, because this is such a lovely school and you're all so friendly, if someone new came into your class, you'd make friends and share your things with them - wouldn't you? But sadly it's not always like that. A long time ago in Jesus' time men and women had to go to many places separately, for instance, the women couldn't get the water out of the well until the men had finished getting what they wanted - (oh by the way - who can tell me what a well is..... Why did the people need to get the water from the well..... the water was needed for the animals and for the family home and for people passing who needed to fill their water bottles and get a drink...) So in Jesus' day (and still in some places today) some people had to wait until others, who thought they were more important, got what they wanted first. But Jesus spoke to the lady and asked her to share her water with him. She thought this was very strange, and as she talked to him, she began to realise how special Jesus was. Even though she thought he wouldn't speak to her because they were so different, Jesus showed that he cared about her and that she was important. He showed her that she was not an **outcast**. I wonder if there's anyone here who can tell us what we mean by an **outcast**?

Conclusion

Sometimes, sadly we think people aren't as good as us, and they feel as though they are 'outcasts' - they feel as though they aren't welcome to do the things we like to do. Sometimes it might be because they are different to us (*refer back to pictures*). Now if you're out on your own or with a friend, it is sensible that you don't talk to strangers, but we mustn't be afraid of learning from people who are different from us. We mustn't think of them as 'outcasts', because any one of us can be an outcast when we're lonely and left out of things our friends are doing. I hope that you'll always try to make people feel welcome - wherever you meet them and whoever they are - just like Jesus did for the woman at the well

Let's say a prayer together; Dear God, / help me to be friendly / to everyone I meet. Amen.

Word of the week

outcast



Transforming Lives - Collective Worship

John 9:1 - 16 Being Controversial

Week Four - KS1

Resources - Leeds United scarf (or any other team!)

Leeds United flag etc etc

Football rattle etc etc

Opening

"Leeds United is the best football team in the world" - isn't it!

Oh yes it is.....

"Well who do you think is the best team in the world? (*invite response*) Then "Oh no it isn't....."

"Who's the best pop star in the world?" (*invite suggestions - who agrees with.....etc etc*
Have a hands up vote for two or three of those the children have suggested.

Oh dear – we have a disagreement – it's very CONTROVERSIAL (can you say that with me - "CONTROVERSIAL"– It means when we don't all agree with each other. Suppose I said, 'I don't think you should have any holiday this Easter – you should come to school at the time – would you agree? Do you think the teachers would agree? I don't really think that, I'm just being 'controversial'

I wonder if anyone here can think of a time when they've not agreed with someone - when it's been '**controversial**'. (*Invite response*)

Development

I've brought a story about a time Jesus was controversial. People often disagreed with Jesus and what he did. He was a very controversial person. Let's find this story (*Open Bible as if reading from it*)

Jesus met a man who couldn't see. He had been born blind. Because he was blind he didn't have a job and he had to beg for money. He had been doing this all his life and all the local people knew him. When Jesus saw him he decided to make the man see again. He put a muddy paste on the man's eyes and told him to go and wash it all off in a pool of water called Siloam.

The blind man did as he was told and sure enough, he began to open his eyes and he found that he could see.

Now you'd think that everyone would be very pleased for the man, but sadly there were some people who thought that Jesus shouldn't have done and said what he did. They asked the man what Jesus had said and done, and they were very cross. They believed that Jesus was saying that he was God and that he shouldn't do that and it made some people very cross. But of course other people believed in him and thought what he had done was wonderful. So there was a lot of 'controversy' People disagreed with each other and got very cross with Jesus.

Conclusion

Hands up those who think what Jesus did was a good thing – that making the blind man see was a good thing (*put your hand in the air!*) I think sometimes we have to be controversial if we want to do what is right. We might have some people disagree with us, but we have to stand up for what we think is right (*refer back to any of the relevant examples the children gave earlier*). It's not always easy, so let's say our prayers together and ask God for his help.

Dear God, / help us to be brave enough / to do the things we know are right. Amen.

Word of the week

controversial

Transforming Lives - Collective Worship



John 11:17 - 45 - Hope
Week Five - KS1

Resources - Attached sheet paraphrasing the story of Freddie the Leaf
(the full text can be found at www.buddhistinformation.com/fall_of_freddie_the_leaf.html)

Opening

I've got a story to read today. I haven't got much time, so I'm going to get straight on with it. I hope you'll listen very carefully because we'll talk about it for a little while at the end. You might want to close your eyes and imagine a tree in a big park.....

Development

Read the story
Ask the children what they think it is about.

Conclusion

I wonder if you can work out why I've chosen this story to read today.....

(Use these 'prompts if necessary:-

What time of the church year (season) is it?

Does anybody know which festival Christians will be celebrating VERY soon?

What does Easter celebrate and why do Christians think it's so special?)

I wonder if anyone can see why I think Freddy the Leaf is a good story to read near Easter time.....

Let's say a prayer together

Dear God / help us to understand about Easter. / When we're sad that Jesus died / help us to remember that he came alive again / on the first Easter Day./ Thankyou for the Good News of Easter. / Amen

Word of the week

Easter

The Fall of Freddie the Leaf (adapted from the story by Leo Buscaglia)

Spring had passed and so had summer.....

Freddie the Leaf had grown large.

He had first appeared in spring as a small sprout on a rather large branch near the top of a tall tree.

Freddie was surrounded by hundreds of other leaves just like himself, or so it seemed. Soon he discovered that no two leaves were alike, even though they were on the same tree. Alfred was the leaf next to him. Ben was the leaf on his right side, and Clare was the lovely leaf overhead.

They had all grown up together. They had learned to dance in the spring breezes, bask lazily in the summer sun and wash off in the cooling rains.

But it was Daniel who was Freddie's best friend. He was the largest leaf on the limb and seemed to have been there before anyone else. It was Daniel who explained that they were growing in a public park. It was Daniel who told him that the tree of which they were a part had strong roots. He explained about the sun, the moon, the stars and the seasons.

Summer had been especially nice. The long hot days felt good and the warm nights were peaceful and dreamy.

There were many people in the park that summer. They often came and sat under Freddie's tree. Daniel told him that giving shade was part of his purpose.

"What's a purpose?" Freddie had asked. "A reason for being" Daniel had answered. "To make things more pleasant for others is a reason for being" To offer help as other people go about their lives – there are lots of reasons for being."

Freddie met all sorts of people. He especially liked the old people. They sat so quietly on the cool grass and hardly ever moved. The children were fun too. It was fun to watch them move so fast and laugh so much.

But Freddie's summer soon passed. It vanished one October night. He had never felt it so cold. All the leaves shivered with the cold. They were coated with a thin layer of white, which quickly melted and left them dew-drenched and sparkling in the morning sun.

Again, it was Daniel who explained that they had experienced their first frost. The sign that it was autumn and that winter would come soon.

Almost at once, the whole tree, in fact the whole park was **transformed** into a blaze of colour. Alfred had turned a deep yellow. Ben had become a bright orange. Claire had become a blazing red. It was as if Freddie and his friends had turned their tree into rainbow.

"Why did we all turn different colours when we are all on the same tree?" asked Freddie. "Because each of us is different", answered Daniel, "We have all had different experiences. We have faced the sun differently, we have cast shade differently. Why shouldn't we be different now?" Daniel told Freddie that this time was called the autumn.

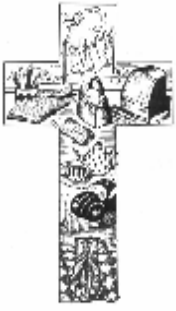
One day, a very strange thing happened. The same breezes that had made Freddie and his friends dance gently in the past began to push harder and to pull at their stems. All the leaves became frightened. "What's happening?" they asked each other in whispers. "It's what happens in autumn", Daniel told them. "It's the time for the leaves to change their home. Some people call it 'to die.'" "Will we all die?" asked Freddie "Yes", answered Daniel. "No matter how big or how small, how weak or how strong. We all die"

Freddie felt afraid and unsure. "We all fear what we don't know", said Daniel, "It's natural. And yet you were not afraid when spring became summer and summer became autumn. They were natural changes. Why should you be afraid of the season of death?" "Does the tree die too?" asked Freddie. "Someday. But there is something stronger than the tree. It is life. That lasts for ever, and we are all part of life.

The first snow fell the following morning. It was soft and white and gentle, but it was bitter cold. There was hardly any sun that day, and the day was very short. Freddie found himself losing his colour, becoming brittle. It was constantly cold and the snow weighed heavy upon him.

At dawn the wind came and took Freddie from his branch. He felt himself float quietly and gently away from his branch. As he fell, he saw the whole tree for the first time. How strong and firm it was! He knew that he had been a part of its life and that made him proud.

Freddie landed on a clump of snow. It somehow felt soft, even warm. In this new position he was more comfortable than he had ever been. He closed his eyes and fell asleep. He did not know that spring would follow winter. He did not know that the snow would be transformed into water which would serve to make the tree stronger. Most of all, he did not know that there, asleep in the tree and the ground, were already plans for new life in the spring.



Transforming Lives - Collective Worship

Matthew 4:1 - 11 - Temptations

Week One - KS2

Theme – “One does not live by bread alone”

Resources

Bible

Opening

Put your hand up if you've won the lottery – that includes the staff!

No, I haven't won it either..... I wonder what it would be like to win. How much do you think would be a 'good win'? (*invite response*)

I wonder what I'd do if I won the lottery..... What do you think I should do?..... What do you think I could have that I haven't got now.....

I wonder what it would **feel like** to win the lottery – what do you think.....

Somebody just now said that £xxxx was a good amount to win. I wonder what you'd do with £xxxx.....

Development

I wonder what difference it would make to someone's life if they suddenly found they'd got a million pounds.....

So I wonder what are the really important things in life.....

I wonder what makes us think that life is really worthwhile.....

Let's store all those thoughts in the back of our heads for a moment and think about something else. Does anyone know what season of the Church Year we are in at the moment (I'll give you a clue – it's got 40 days and 40 nights)

Does anyone know anything about what happened to Jesus in the 40 days and nights we're talking about?

Tempted three times – want to think today about the temptation to change stones into bread I wonder why Jesus turned down the chance to have bread to eat..... I wonder what was more important to him.....

Conclusion

Sometimes we just know that what we have to do is right, even if it's hard at the time. Sometimes we have to make hard choices and we are tempted to take the easy way out.

[I wonder if there is anyone here who has got family members who fast What do you feel like when you succeed – have you failed / how did you feel ?]

Jesus knew that he needed to spend his time thinking about his life and his relationship with God. He wanted to concentrate on that more than anything else. He knew that there was more to life than one good meal. This is how we are told about it in the Bible ... (*open Bible and read Matthew 4 : 1-4*)

Jesus was tempted to give in, but he knew that if he stuck at what mattered he would be better off in the end – not better off for money, but better off in the way he lived his life.

Let's ask God to help us to do what we know is right even when we're tempted to take the easy way out.

Dear God / help us to do what is right / rather than taking the easy way out./ When we are tempted to do what is wrong, help us to be strong / and to encourage those around us. /Amen

Word of the week

temptation



Transforming Lives - Collective Worship

John 3:1-12 - New Life

Week Two - KS2

Theme of 'transforming'

Resources

Range of items made from recycled goods

Pictures of land reclamation projects e.g. Pugneys

converted mill complex e.g. Red Brick;

community projects which have turned waste land

into parks / gardens etc Find something local to your

school if possible.

Opening

I wonder if there's anyone here who recycles something.....*Invite response and ask what they recycle and why.*

I've brought some things here which have been recycled and made into something new (*show items*)

(If you've got pictures show and discuss inviting comment on old buildings / land getting a 'new lease of life'. If you don't have pictures describe mill conversions, reclaimed land etc and ask the children if they know of any)

Development

Sometimes things change for the better and look very different – we might say they've been 'transformed' e.g. who's seen one of those house makeover programmes on the tele? They 'transform' a tatty house into a smart house, it's as if the house, even though it has the same walls and roof, has been built again, as if it's been rebuilt – and yet it has the same address, so in one sense it's the same house, but in another sense it's a new house. It has been **transformed**. It's a really strange question – how can it be the same house and yet a new house?

And it doesn't just happen with houses and bits of land. It could be said that people can be transformed. I wonder if there's anyone here who can think of a way a person can be transformed.....*(invite response.)*

The Bible tells us of a time when a man called Nicodemus went to ask Jesus about his faith. Jesus told him that when he learned more and knew more about God it would be like getting a new life. Jesus said it would be like being born again. At first Nicodemus didn't understand – after all, it's not possible for someone to be born twice But I wonder if anyone here can work out what Jesus was telling Nicodemus, what he meant by being 'born again' *(invite response – re-starting your life / seeing things in a whole new way / etc)*

Conclusion

We began by looking at things that had been made out of rubbish. Now I'm not saying we're rubbish(!), but I am saying we're like a piece of land that can be replanted with new grass and flowers, and if it's looked after it will be lovely for everyone around. And just as Jesus told

Nicodemus, we're a bit like that. Sometimes we make a bit of a mess of our lives and we do things that make ourselves and other people miserable. BUT we can change ourselves, we can 'transform' ourselves so that we can be good and happy people. We can have a new start after we've made a mistake. I think God lets us have a new start, he lets us be 'transformed', we just have to want to do it.

Let's say a prayer together to thank God that he will always offer us a new start .

Dear God, / when we've made a mistake / or when we need to change our ways / help us to turn to you./ We know that you will teach us if we are prepared to learn. / Thankyou for giving us the chance of a fresh start. / Amen

Word of the week

transform



Transforming Lives - Collective Worship

John 4 : 5 - 15, 25 - 30 Being an outcast

Week Three - KS2

Theme of special people

Resources

Poster of Shrek

Opening

Who can tell me who this is?.....

What can you tell me about him – one fact per hand up!

Where did he live? I wonder why he lived there?

I wonder why the townspeople didn't want him around.....

Development

Shrek was different from the other people. Now he was happy living in his swamp away from the other folk, but I wonder if anyone can think of someone that might be forced to live away from other people when they don't really want to.....

In our church on Sunday we heard / will hear about a time when Jesus met a woman at a well. The story took place in a very hot country in an area called Samaria. Have a listen to this (*read John 4 : 5-9*)

I wonder if anything strikes you as strange in that story..... (*invite response – explain Jews and Samaritans didn't get on*) Here's a bit more of the story – listen to this (*read v 27*). So even the disciples , Jesus' closest friends were surprised that he was talking to someone they considered to be an 'outcast' – can anyone tell me what I mean by 'outcast'

As Jesus and the woman talked more and more, she realised that Jesus was a very special person, and there's a lot more we can learn from the talk they had, but for now, let's just think about how the woman was expecting to be pushed to one side because she was usually thought to be less important or thought of as an 'outcast'. Do you think that's right when that happens to people – I wonder if anyone can think of a time when that might happen to someone (*Invite response – prompt if need be – refugees, someone who dresses very differently etc. etc.*)

Conclusion

Shrek was treated badly by the townspeople because he was different – but that's just a made up story. Sadly, sometimes people today are treated badly for all the wrong reasons. By talking with the woman at the well and drinking water with her he showed his disciples and us today that everyone is important and everyone should be treated properly. The story of Shrek is lots of fun and it all turns out Ok in the end because it's a fairytale. The story of Jesus the Jew and the Samaritan woman isn't a fairytale. It shows us how to behave, even when people are different to us. Let's try and learn from the example Jesus gave.

Let's say a prayer together. Dear God, you made us all different but all special. / Help us to learn from the example Jesus gave / and to be friendly and welcoming / to everyone we meet. Amen.

Word of the week

outcast



Transforming Lives - Collective Worship

John 9:1 - 16 Being Controversial

Week Four - KS2

Opening

If you had to choose the most important day of the year for you – I wonder what you'd choose....
(invite response asking why the day is important – get different suggestions, not just birthdays!)

I wonder what the most important or special thing in your life is..... (invite response)

For some people their faith is the most important thing in their life. There might be rules in the religion to help them follow their faith e.g. most vicars believe they should start and finish the day with prayers – why do you think that is.....

People who really want to follow their religion properly put time aside to worship God, different religions do it differently, but they all say that it is important to give time to God, just like we're doing now. (Possibility here for including children of different faiths to say briefly how they observe their religious rules)

Development

Does anybody know what the Jews call their holy day in the week?(Sabbath)

Do you know what day it is – when does it start and finish?

Back in Jesus' day the Jews had really strict rules. There was a group of people called the Pharisees and they were the people who REALLY thought that every little rule should be followed properly. Many of them thought that rules were more important than people. The Pharisees didn't like Jesus too much because he said that it was very important to worship God properly, but he thought that people were more important than rules. He put the people first. There are lots of examples of this in the stories we're told about Jesus in the Gospels, but the one Christians will be hearing about this Sunday /heard about last Sunday tells us of a time when Jesus healed a blind man.

Jesus was walking when he saw a blind man. Jesus knew he could heal him. Put your hands up if you think it 's right that Jesus should heal him – should make him see **for the first time in his life**. (put you own hand up – this will encourage the cowards!)

Now, it so happened that it was the Jewish Sabbath, the holy day, and Jews believe that you shouldn't work on the Sabbath. I wonder if anyone can think of which people might have been cross that Jesus healed the blind man

I wonder why they were cross.....

Conclusion

Jesus was a very CONTROVERSIAL person. Can anyone explain what I mean by 'controversial'?.....

Sometimes we have to make decisions which will seem right to us and wrong to other people. Sometimes we have to be 'controversial'. For instance, in this school it might be that your Head Teacher and the Governors think it would be a good idea to(find something relevant to the individual situation e.g. spend lots of money on a new garden area V more computers; introduce a compulsory homework club; bring chips back on the menu every day..... etc etc)

Maybe you've had to be controversial. Maybe you've had to stand up for someone against a bully, maybe you've had to do something at home that you knew was right, but your brothers and sisters didn't agree with. The point is that you must be doing it for the right reason. You must believe that you've got something to stand up for.

Jesus knew that he was going to upset the Pharisees, but he knew there was a good reason for it. He knew it was right to heal the blind man.

Let's say a prayer together and ask God to help us when we need to be controversial.

Dear God, / help us to be brave enough to stand up for what is right. / Help us to be wise enough to know when someone else is right/ and we need to learn from them. Amen

Word of the week - controversial



Transforming Lives - Collective Worship

John 11:17 - 45 - Hope
Week Five - KS 2

NB This act of Collective Worship is designed to review and reflect on the place of and purpose of Lent in the Church Calendar. For this reason the story of the raising of Lazarus will not be covered.

You will need to prime the staff before hand that there is a quiet finish to this Collective Worship i.e. – don't follow with notices!

Resources ghetto blaster and gentle music e.g. panpipes; Enya;
candle (and matches!)
big sheet of paper with L - learning
E - encouraging
N – nearly there!
T - transformation

Introduction

Invite the pupils to tell you of something that has happened to them (good or bad) in the previous four weeks.How did it make you feel?Did it make you think about things differently?

Development

For the last four weeks Christians have been thinking about their own lives and how they can be better Christians. I wonder if anyone here can think how Christians might try to lead better lives – transformed lives.....(e.g. learning more about Jesus' life and trying to be more like him; caring more about what we do etc etc.....)

Does anyone here know what Christians call the 40 days that run up to Easter?

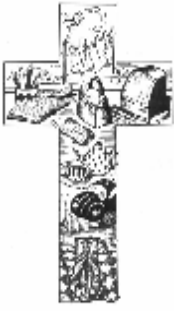
Lots of Christians in the Wakefield Diocese (and that includes where we live) have been thinking about how they can make themselves better people for God. We've been doing this for four weeks now, and we hope that we shall go on doing it. We've been trying to improve ourselves all through Lent, by L – learning from what Jesus told us to do
E - encouraging and helping each other when it's seemed hard
N – now we're nearly at the end of Lent, we're nearly there,
hoping that we've been
T – transformed – that our lives will be better for thinking about how God wants us to be and about what Jesus taught us

Conclusion

Instead of a prayer we say out loud this week, we're going to finish a little bit differently. I'm going to play some quiet music and I hope you'll close your eyes and think about something you can do to 'transform' your life or to 'transform' the life of someone you know who needs help or extra care. After a little while I shall say 'Amen' and blow the candle out, but I shall leave the music playing and we'll all go out really quietly, determined to be better, 'transformed' people.

Word of the week – Easter

Transforming Lives - Collective Worship



Matthew 21:1-11

Palm Sunday - KS 1

Resources

Donkey puppet / stuffed donkey (preferably not the one from Shrek as the children's minds will go elsewhere!)
Home made palm branch (fringed green crepe paper stuck on to a long tube!)

Opening

(Use the donkey puppet to look at you as you sing a line and at the children as they sing. This puppet is your partner for the session. Talk to it and have it react).

I'm going to teach you a song. It goes like this: *(To the tune of 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor!')* Tell them 'hosanna' is just a happy word – a word of celebration – like hooray.

We have a king who rides a donkey	Let's all sing and shout 'hosanna'
We have a king who rides a donkey	Let's all sing and shout 'hosanna'
We have a king who rides a donkey	Let's all sing and shout 'hosanna'
And his name is Jesus.	Jesus is our Saviour

Teach this one line at a time and then put it all together. They'll get it after one run through!

Development

In a little while we shall sing the song as a part of our worship, but before that I wonder if there's anyone here who has an idea as to why I might have chosen that song...*(Invite response)*

You will need to adapt the following according to the response you have just received. If possible, get them to tell you the story by question and answer. If not, use the following.

Jesus knew it was time to go to Jerusalem, the holy city. He decided to ride into the city on a donkey. The crowd had seen some of the wonderful things he had done when he had made people well, and they'd also heard him talking in the temple – and they thought he was REALLY good. So when he arrived riding a donkey they all cheered and waved branches of the palm trees. They even put their coats and more palm branches on the road for him to ride over. They were SO pleased to see him. And because they were SO pleased to see him they shouted – well – does anyone know the special word they shouted..... Hosanna..... Do you think we can shout that really loud HOSANNA *(use the donkey figure to react to all this)* and I'm sure if they'd known this song they would have sung it, so let's imagine we're the people watching Jesus ride past us through the streets as we sing the song we learned just now.

Sing the song – encourage them to really sing out – the people were very enthusiastic! If however, it stands the chance of getting a touch raucous suggest they sing 'let's all sing and shout' quietly and then just shout the word 'hosanna' – you wave the palm branch and they can wave their hands in the air at 'hosanna'.

Conclusion

Let's say a prayer together.

Dear God / help us to notice/ when Jesus comes into our lives. / Help us to be transformed / by all that he teaches us./ Amen

Word of the week – Hosanna (hooray)

Transforming Lives - Collective Worship



Matthew 21:1-11

Palm Sunday - KS 2

Opening

We've been hearing over the past few weeks of some of the things that Jesus did and said. Can anyone remember anything we've heard about? (*invite response – temptations, raising of Lazarus, woman at the well etc*)

Jesus knew now that it was time to go to Jerusalem, the holy city. He decided to ride into the city on a donkey. The crowd had seen some of the wonderful things he had done when he had made people well, and they'd also heard him talking in the temple – and they thought he was REALLY good. So when he arrived riding a donkey they all cheered and waved branches of the palm trees. They even put their coats and more palm branches on the road for him to ride over. They were SO pleased to see him. And because they were SO pleased to see him they shouted – well – does anyone know the special word they shouted..... Hosanna..... Hooray.....

Development

It must have been a brilliant atmosphere – everyone happy and shouting and celebrating.... And yet.... just a few later the crowd were shouting for Jesus to be killed. How soon they had forgotten the good things he had done. Can anyone tell me what happened on the Thursday night and the Friday after Palm Sunday..... (*invite response for arrest, trials crucifixion*)

During the week to come Christians will remember this special week – we call it Holy Week and we remember the awful things that happened to Jesus, but the story doesn't end there ... Can anyone tell me what Christians believe happened next – what special day do we call it.....

It's very easy to just think that all this is a sort of history lesson, but I think that there are all sorts of things we can think about in our own lives that tie in with what happened 2,000 years ago.

The main thing I want to think about today is that crowd of ordinary people like you and me who thought Jesus was wonderful on Sunday and, just 5 short days later, turned against him. I wonder how often we fall in and out of friends – we're nice to someone one day and then another day we find a new friend and we're not very kind to our real friend. I wonder how often we listen to the wrong people and we hurt the people we really care about.

Conclusion

But today, we're also thinking about a good day. A day when people were happy and the streets of Jerusalem were filled with cheering people. We haven't got streets running through his school, but we have got corridors. Now I'm not suggesting that you shout hosanna every time you meet someone in the corridor, but I am suggesting that we can offer a happy smile to everyone we meet. Let's try to concentrate on the good things, the things that are good to cheer about, even if we're only cheering in our heads.

Let's say a prayer together.

Dear God,/ help us to see the good in everyone / and to be grateful for their friendship. / Amen