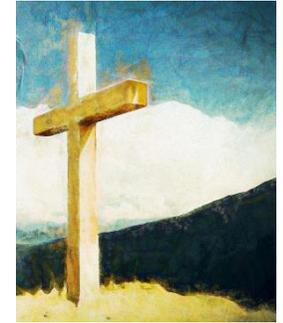




Collective Worship Planning Spring 2021

Hope, courage and endurance



At all times remember the following:

1. Collective worship is more than 'just a statutory requirement,' or 'another thing I have to do.' Worship has the potential to **set the tone for your whole day** and is a key driver for delivering messages of hope, courage and endurance in a challenging time.
2. Worship in a classroom space can be difficult. Invest in a **routine** which signifies that something different and special is about to happen. Create a focal point and consider seating arrangements carefully.
3. **Let the children lead.** Younger children always want to get involved and their responsibilities will be small in comparison with the capabilities of older children. Younger children can participate by leading the gathering, choosing artefacts for the focal point or reading a prayer standing at the front. Older children should be able to plan acts of worship from Bible stories or themes. Consider putting them all on a rota, allocating them stories and seeing what they put together!
4. There must be an **opportunity to worship God.** Worship is an attitude of the heart focused on God. In a school situation this will involve leading people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish. As a class teacher you will be used to filling every moment, but do not be afraid to leave empty spaces and silence for children to meet and experience God should they want to.
5. It is important that we remember collective worship should be inclusive, inspirational and invitational no matter where it is held or who is leading.
 - **Inclusive:** something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none to be able to join in with.
 - **Inspirational:** a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives; an occasion that supports the school community's spiritual development.
 - **Invitational:** an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity.
6. The main elements of **G-E-R-S** (gather – engage – respond - send) should be present in each of act of worship. This will help children to understand the Anglican structure of worship and it also really helps to have a structure to follow each day. You could use the Flippin' Praise booklet to help you – see 'Working on Worship 20 – Flippin Praise' available at <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/schools/school-leaders/collective-worship/collective-worship-resources/>
7. There should be a focus on **Biblical or Christian content** in each worship session. This content should be explored and made relevant to life today.

It is the task of collective worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.

Notes on using the collective worship plans

The following collective worship planning has been written to provide you with a starting point. The values have been chosen to reflect the time of difficulty many children would have experienced over the last few months. Through time spent in worship, children can begin to understand their own experiences and the experiences of others and begin to feel hopeful that with a return to school that life will once again start to feel somewhat normal, if not completely.

Each week is on one page in an easy to refer to format. It will not be needed by all teachers or schools but is available to those who would benefit from it. Each school will have a different structure to worship over the week and will have developed their own approaches to daily class-based worship based on this. The following structure is just a suggestion and one way of using this resource:

Structure for the week:

Monday	Collective worship linked to the current value. Here the value of hope has been used for the first six weeks then courage. In this example, worship begins on a Monday with a Bible story to illustrate the value. These worships (or at least the engage) could be delivered by one person across the school by zoom or a pre-recorded video.
Tuesday	Collective worship with Christian content linked to the value.
Wednesday	On a Wednesday schools could develop their worship by working through a collection of Bible stories – one story at a time in order. This could be as simple as starting at the beginning of the Lion Storyteller Bible (used by Open the Book) and reading one story at a time, or starting at the New Testament stories. There are plenty of different Bible story collections to use and most teachers will have access to one. When stories are read – variations of the same questions could be asked: What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn about the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today? And others of course!
Thursday	Worship on a Thursday will focus on silence, stillness, reflection and prayer, a safe peaceful space in our busy and noise-filled world. Generally children shouldn't be asked to sit in quiet any more than a minute per year of their age but this can be shortened for younger children and visual prompts (timers, sounds, bubbles, feathers falling, rain sticks etc) can be used to help teach children to sit and centre themselves for increasingly longer periods of time. Have a go with using poetry, images of art and other focus points to help children create an empty space to come close to God.
Friday	Many schools will choose to end the week with a celebration of learning and behaviour. However, it is important that this celebration assembly still includes opportunities to worship and so every Friday suggestions are included.

Other notes:

- Feel free to use your own school's gatherings and sendings rather than the suggested ones
- Focus on the quality of the time rather than the quantity. Five minutes of really good input and time for reflection is better than 15mins of time filling. What is important is that you use the time you have wisely and that worship contributes to a child's education as well as allowing an opportunity to learn about and meet with God. Print off the plans and put them somewhere easily accessible in your classroom to refer to.
- Find creative ways to **make reference to your schools unique context and vision.**
- The sending should be developed to give children something to think about or put into action over the course of the day.
- These resources include reference to the Resilience Growing Faith resources found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-home/i-am-school-leader>

First a word about Christian endurance...

Most good things in life only come with time, patience, dedicated effort and endurance. This is also true in the realm of faith.



journey towards the heavenly city, in which he has to persevere or endure through many dangers and trials. For Christians there is the promise that Jesus goes before them as the pioneer and perfecter of faith: *'We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete'* (Hebrews 12:2). There are many verses that encourage Christians to persevere and endure.

Please watch Bishop Mike talk about what endurance means to a Christian in his 5 minute video found [here](#) recorded especially for those delivering this resource.

How Long, O Lord?

Endurance is the ability to continue with an unpleasant or difficult situation, experience, or activity **over a long period of time**.

Endurance right now is important to us all. This year has felt, and continues to feel, like the season in which we are all learning about what it means to truly endure.

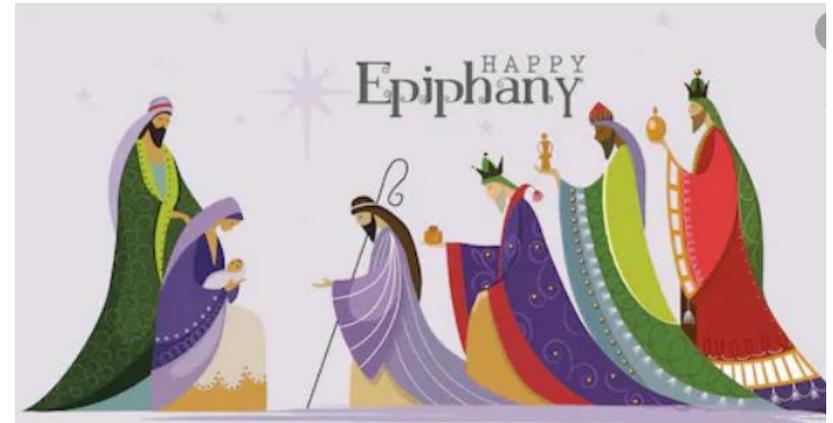
Christians often describe their spiritual life as a journey. There are many possible diversions and temptations along the journey, which Christians are warned to resist. John Bunyan in his famous book *Pilgrim's Progress* captures this idea in his description of Christian's journey towards the heavenly city, in which he has to persevere or endure through many dangers and trials. For Christians there is the promise that Jesus goes before them as the pioneer and perfecter of faith: *'We must keep our eyes on Jesus, who leads us and makes our faith complete'* (Hebrews 12:2). There are many verses that encourage Christians to persevere and endure.

KEEP
Running
THE
race
—THAT IS SET—
before you
WITH
endurance
HEBREWS 12:1

... and Epiphany

The Feast of the Epiphany, which always falls on 6 January, marks the beginning of a season which recognises Jesus to be the Son of God.

Epiphany celebrates the time when Jesus was shown to the three kings (or wise men). It is often lumped together with Christmas as the Three Kings parade in as part of our annual nativity play but actually Epiphany, or Three Kings Day, follows Christmas. It celebrates the fact that Jesus had come into the world for everyone, not just the Jews. The story can be found in Matthew 2:1-12.



Spring 1 Week 1 04.01	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Theme	Celebrating Epiphany	Celebrating Epiphany	Next Bible story from class collection	Reflection	Celebration
Gather We prepare to meet with God	Leader: Arise, shine, for our light has come... Response: ... and the glory of the Lord has risen upon us	Light a candle and say: Leader - The Lord is here Response- His spirit is with us	Hold up a Bible and say: Leader – Make us to know your ways, O Lord Response – and teach us your paths	Leader - Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Response - Amen	Leader - The Lord is good Response- He made us and we belong to him
Engage We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God’s message to us.	On the 6th January each year Christians around the world have a special festival called Epiphany which celebrates the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus and the gifts they brought. Can you remember the gifts fit for a King? Watch the story http://sandbible.com/?p=67	Epiphany in Germany is a children’s festival. After church, children go from house to house to gather offerings for children in need. They dress as the three kings and carry sticks with stars. At the homes they sing songs and remember the birth of Jesus. They are known as ‘sternsinger’ or star-singers. This year at each house they visit they will paint this code: "20+C+M+B+20". The numbers stand for the year: 2020 The crosses are not ‘pluses’ but reminders of Jesus Christ and his cross. The letters are the first letters of the traditional names of the wise men: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar & the Latin Christus Mansionem Benedicat (May Christ bless this house).	Read the story Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	<i>One More Step Along the World I Go.</i> Listen to the song. click here This song has been voted as the most popular school song for some years. Why is it so popular do you think? Look at the lyrics. The song doesn’t mention the word God – where might God be referenced?	We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him. The Bible says ‘be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.’ 2 Chronicles 15:7. We can develop resilience in our hearts and mind through practice. If we practice things that are hard, we will get stronger. Eventually we will be able to do harder and harder things. I wonder... what do you find really hard to do? How could you get stronger? Let’s celebrate those children who have been successful this week by working hard and persevering.
Respond We respond to what we have heard and seen. We are given the opportunity to worship together.	What gifts from God are you thankful for? A prayer from Sri Lanka O God our Creator, in you alone are the riches of life. We come from the East and we come from the West believing we follow, on our different roads, the same star to the same place. May we share what we know of its light, learn from each other the way to the stable, worship you, our only wealth, and serve the world with Gospel gold. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.	All around the world people would like their homes to be filled with joy and blessing. That’s why Christians like to re-enact the story of the wise men being led to Jesus, visiting him at his own house. Finding Jesus brought them joy and blessing. Look at a picture of Jesus being shown to the wise men. Imagine you are there. You are looking at Jesus and he is looking at you. Say his name quietly. Tell him your name. I wonder what else you’d say to him?	Listen to piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	Read a verse as a prayer E.g. Give me courage when the world is rough, Keep me loving though the world is tough; Leap and sing in all I do, Keep me travelling along with you: And it’s from the old I travel to the new; Keep me travelling along with you.	Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us. From Anglican liturgy: O God, the King eternal, who divides the day from the darkness; drive far from us all wrong desires, make our hearts ready to keep your law, and guide our feet in the way of peace, that having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may when night comes rejoice and give you thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
Send We are sent out to love and serve	Leader: May the light of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you Response: ...and also with you	Leader - May God grant to the world justice, truth and peace. Response- and make our school a place of love. Amen.	Leader - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Response - In the name of Christ. Amen	Leader - We go into the world to walk in God’s light, to rejoice in God’s love and to reflect God’s glory. Response – Amen	Leader -May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts Response – Amen.

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Theme	Staying on task	Resisting temptation is hard but possible	Next Bible story from class collection	Reflection	Celebration
Gather We prepare to meet with God	Leader - We meet in the presence of God who Response – gives us hope	Light a candle and say: Leader - The Lord is here Response- His spirit is with us	Hold up a Bible and say: Leader – Make us to know your ways, O Lord Response – and teach us your paths	Leader - Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Response - Amen	Leader - The Lord is good Response- He made us and we belong to him
Engage We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God’s message to us.	What preparation would be needed to run a marathon? It is not an easy task! What would you have to give up or miss out on? There are always reasons to give up on the goals we set ourselves - reasons to be tempted not to stay on task. It happened to Jesus, too. He knew that God wanted him to rescue the world from all that was bad, but he was tempted to use God’s power to do things for himself instead. Read the story 'Jesus is tested' from Matthew 4:1-11 or click here	Have you ever run/biked/ in a long race? If so, what was it like? How did you feel at the end? The Bible says 'let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.' Hebrews 12: 1-2 I wonder what it means for Christians when it says 'The race marked out for us?' How might Christians use this example to be more like Jesus? (Follow him, keep their eyes on Him, He was perfect and His example of living and treating others is how Christians want to live)	Read the story Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	For a long race not only would we need to train, but we would also need to consider the fuel we feed our bodies. We need to eat well – Christians describe prayer and God’s word, the Bible, as their spiritual food, so praying and reading the Bible regularly will help Christians to grow in their faith. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWDa_7Q9ryI 	We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him. In the Bible -Matthew 19:26 - Jesus said, “with God all things are possible.” Sometimes it is easy to be discouraged and give up when things are hard. But God is a God of miracles. Not just miracles that happened in the past, but miracles that happen today, all around us. You can always ask God to help. Giving up entirely is the only way to fail. Do the children agree? Let’s celebrate those children who have been successful this week by working hard and persevering.
Respond We respond to what we have heard and seen. We are given the opportunity to worship together.	Sometimes it is easy to think about all the things we are missing out on, the activities we could be doing. For Jesus, God wanted him to help people in a way that would last forever. Christians believe that God offers us the strength to say 'no' to these temptations to give up. Say the Lords’ prayer	You are a young champion. Jesus came to earth as a man and ran the race of life. But he did it perfectly. That is why we fix our eyes on him. But I wonder... what was his prize? Jesus was God and already had everything! What did he come to earth to get? You. You are Jesus’s prize. You are his joy. What he came to win. - Sally Lloyd-Jones	Listen to piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	Ask children to quietly reflect on 5 things that they need to feel strong and well. They could name each on a finger on one hand. Then, if they wanted, they could in turn thank God for each one.	Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us. From Anglican liturgy: O God, the King eternal, who divides the day from the darkness; drive far from us all wrong desires, make our hearts ready to keep your law, and guide our feet in the way of peace, that having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may when night comes rejoice and give you thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
Send We are sent out to love and serve	Leader - Go in peace, Response - We go in peace Leader - Go in joy Response - We go in joy Leader - Go in love Response - We go in love Amen.	Leader - May God grant to the world justice, truth and peace. Response- and make our school a place of love. Amen.	Leader - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Response - In the name of Christ. Amen	Leader - We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Response – Amen	Leader -May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts Response – Amen.

Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Theme	Fix your eyes on Jesus	God gives strength – You can do hard things.	Next Bible story from class collection	Reflection	Celebration
Gather We prepare to meet with God	Leader - We meet in the presence of God who Response – gives us hope	Light a candle and say: Leader - The Lord is here Response- His spirit is with us	Hold up a Bible and say: Leader – Make us to know your ways, O Lord Response – and teach us your paths	Leader - Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Response - Amen	Leader - The Lord is good Response- He made us and we belong to him
Engage We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God’s message to us.	What helps you focus when times are tough? What do you keep your eyes fixed on? What goals do you have in school and outside? In the present or future? Remembering where we want to get to, and imagining ourselves there, can help us endure the path. Matthew 14: 22-33 – Peter walking on the water. Only when Peter took his eyes off Jesus, did he began to sink and struggle. Jesus pulled him out and helped him. click here	Whatever the goals may be that you set for yourselves, there will always be voices tempting you to give up, telling you there's an easier way, offering you a short cut, suggesting that you cheat. Christians believe that God offers us the strength to say 'no' to these temptations to give up. God can help us stay on task. Read Philippians 4:13 – <i>I can do all this through him who gives me strength.</i> It doesn't just say some things – it says ALL things. God cares about the small things, like when you are stuck on a maths question, to the larger things like which school to choose for year 7. Ask God to help you, He is always listening	Read the story Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	Read the following poem: The Bend in the Road. Author: Helen Steiner Rice Sometimes we come to life's crossroads And we view what we think is the end. But God has a much wider vision And he knows that it's only a bend- The road will go on and get smoother And after we've stopped for a rest, The path that lies hidden beyond us Is often the path that is best. So rest and relax and grow stronger, Let go and let God share your load And have faith in a brighter tomorrow- You've just come to a bend in the road.	<u>We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him.</u> The Bible tells us 'God helped you begin and he will help you until it is finished.' Philippians 1:6 This should help keep us motivated when times get tough. Give us hope. Where have you benefitted from help this week? When have you helped others? Let's celebrate those children who have been successful this week by working hard and persevering.
Respond We respond to what we have heard and seen. We are given the opportunity to worship together.	Dear Father God, Thank you that you promise to always be by our side every day. Please help me to persevere when I am stuck and feel like giving up. Help me to keep my eyes fixed on you, so that I can follow your example and help and guide anyone who might need my help. Amen.	During quiet reflection say: If you don't feel good enough? It's okay, God makes you more than enough. If you don't feel strong enough? It's okay, God gives you all the strength you need. If you don't feel like you have enough energy? It's okay, God renews your strength. God will fill in all of your "not enoughs" if you let him.	Listen to piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	After a hard day, you might hear adults say 'everything will look better in the morning.' Physical rest certainly helps both the body and the mind. Resting gives us renewed strength to face daily challenges. Faith means resting – relying not on who we are or what we can do, but who God is. Allow children the opportunity to say their own prayer thanking God for his strength and any other requests.	Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us. From Anglican liturgy: O God, the King eternal, who divides the day from the darkness; drive far from us all wrong desires, make our hearts ready to keep your law, and guide our feet in the way of peace, that having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may when night comes rejoice and give you thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
Send We are sent out to love and serve	Leader - Go in peace, Response- We go in peace Leader - Go in joy Response- We go in joy Leader- Go in love Response- We go in love Amen.	Leader - May God grant to the world justice, truth and peace. Response - and make our school a place of love. Amen.	Leader - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Response - In the name of Christ. Amen	Leader - We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Response – Amen	Leader -May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts Response – Amen.

Week 4	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Theme	Be persistent	You're Not Doing This Alone	Next Bible story from class collection	Reflection	Celebration
Gather We prepare to meet with God	Leader - We meet in the presence of God who Response – gives us hope	Light a candle and say: Leader - The Lord is here Response- His spirit is with us	Hold up a Bible and say: Leader – Make us to know your ways, O Lord Response – and teach us your paths	Leader - Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Response – Amen	Leader - The Lord is good Response- He made us and we belong to him We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him.
Engage We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God's message to us.	Watch: click here Why do you think Jesus told this story? I wonder how the widow in the story felt about having to go back again and again? How would you feel? Have you ever had a time when you asked someone and they wouldn't listen to you? Jesus told this story to encourage his followers to keep trying – not to give up. In fact, he said this is how they should pray to God – over and over again, without giving up.	One of the lies we often believe when we feel stuck is that we are alone. We can tell ourselves things like: <i>Nobody else understands how hard this is. Nobody else has been in this situation. Nobody else feels my pain. No one gets it.</i> Have you ever felt this before? The Bible tells us: 'The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.'- Deuteronomy 31:8 God promises that He will never leave you. Just because you are going through a tough time doesn't mean He has abandoned you. His strength helps us endure the difficult times.	Read the story Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	Faith at home Resilience Watch and discuss click here	Red Psalm 37:24 –;though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.' Endurance isn't easy and we may want to give up and make mistakes. This Psalm tells us it is okay to mess up along the way. Endurance isn't about knowing with certainty that each step you take is the right one. Don't worry about doing things perfectly – just keep moving forward. This verse reminds us of this quote by Martin Luther King Jr. "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward." Let's celebrate those children who have been successful this week by working hard and persevering.
Respond We respond to what we have heard and seen. We are given the opportunity to worship together.	Invite children to join in the prayer: Father God I know you hear me when I cry out to you, Comfort me when things feel hard, Give me strength when I can't keep going, Breathe into me when I feel empty and alone, Help me to know I am loved and valued. So I can keep springing back, Again and again Again and again Again and again Amen	Dear Lord, sometimes it's hard to keep trying. It's hard when things are tough or when everything seems to be going wrong. Please help us never to give up but always to endure. Please help us to be people who encourage others to keep trying as we all aim for different goals in life. Thank you that you never give up on us and that you always with us. Amen	Listen to piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	Create a class prayer based on the Bible verse in the video	Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us. From Anglican liturgy: O God, the King eternal, who divides the day from the darkness; drive far from us all wrong desires, make our hearts ready to keep your law, and guide our feet in the way of peace, that having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may when night comes rejoice and give you thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
Send We are sent out to love and serve	Leader - Go in peace, Response- We go in peace Leader - Go in joy Response- We go in joy Leader - Go in love Response- We go in love Amen.	Leader - May God grant to the world justice, truth and peace. Response - and make our school a place of love. Amen.	Leader - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Response - In the name of Christ. Amen	Leader - We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Response – Amen	Leader -May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts Response – Amen.

Week 5	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Theme	Trust God's plan	An opportunity to practice feeling content	Next Bible story from class collection	Reflection	Celebration
Gather We prepare to meet with God	Leader - We meet in the presence of God who Response – gives us hope	Light a candle and say: Leader - The Lord is here Response- His spirit is with us	Hold up a Bible and say: Leader – Make us to know your ways, O Lord Response – and teach us your paths	Leader - Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Response - Amen	Leader - The Lord is good Response- He made us and we belong to him
Engage We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God's message to us.	What is the biggest project that you have built out of Lego? How long did it take? How long do you think it took Noah to build the ark? (some think 100 years!) What would have happened if Noah had given up and left the ark half built? Watch click here! God gave Noah a pretty big job; God asked him to build a huge boat. What difficulties do you think he experienced? He didn't even live near the sea! But Noah persevered. God might give one of us a hard job to do. He might ask you to be friends with someone everyone else is choosing to ignore. He might ask you to forgive a brother or sister who teases you. God was pleased with Noah, and God will also be pleased with you when you persevere in doing what is right.	When things get tough, what might you be tempted to do? You could spend your days wishing for things to be different, or remembering the days when things were. So we drift into self-pity, pining away for what might be and continually trying to escape what actually is. The Bible says "Not that I was ever in need, for I have learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little. For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:11-13). For the Christian endurance is an opportunity to practice feeling content – being happy with what we have. It is something to be learned, for contentment isn't natural to any of us!	Read the story Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	Watch Running the Race - click here What are the secrets to keeping going? What disciplines are needed? How can we keep our eyes on the goal? Maybe the promise of a reward at the end helps? Or perhaps the best encouragement is to have friends alongside us? Christopher Reeve said: 'I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles'	<u>We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him.</u> In the Old Testament there are promises for those who endure: <i>'The Lord gives strength to those who are weary... Those who trust the Lord will find new strength. They will be strong like eagles, soaring up on wings; they will walk and run without getting tired'</i> (Isaiah 40:29-31). All human effort has its limits. A Christian knows when it is time to draw on God's strength to keep going. God gives power to the powerless enabling them to renew their strength and take off like eagles. Let's celebrate those children who have been successful this week by working hard and persevering. Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us.
Respond We respond to what we have heard and seen. We are given the opportunity to worship	Noah didn't wait for the rain to start building God's ark. What is it you could be planning ahead for? What goal could you plan this week? If they want, children quietly share their goal with God and ask for his guidance.	In what ways do I struggle with feeling content? Do I want more possessions? Do I compare myself with others? Instead think of what you are grateful for. Father God. Thank you for your patience with me. I struggle with being content. It is difficult. Give me eyes to see how blessed I am. Help me become someone who is joyful, even in the midst of challenges. I long to know—by the peace in my heart—that I have everything I need, in you. Amen.	Listen to piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	I wonder what hard choices I might have to face today? I wonder if God can give me the strength to stick to what I have decided is my goal? Father God, When we face testing times, help us to discover the inner strength we need to do the right thing. Amen.	From Anglican liturgy: O God, the King eternal, who divides the day from the darkness; drive far from us all wrong desires, make our hearts ready to keep your law, and guide our feet in the way of peace, that having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may when night comes rejoice and give you thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
Send We are sent out to love and serve	Leader - Go in peace, Response- We go in peace Leader - Go in joy Response- We go in joy Leader - Go in love Response- We go in love Amen.	Leader - May God grant to the world justice, truth and peace. Response - and make our school a place of love. Amen.	Leader - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Response - In the name of Christ. Amen	Leader - We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Response – Amen	Leader -May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts Response – Amen.

Week 6	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Theme	God never leaves me	When we endure, we grow.	Next Bible story from class collection	Reflection	Celebration
Gather We prepare to meet with God	Leader - We meet in the presence of God who Response – gives us hope	Light a candle and say: Leader - The Lord is here Response- His spirit is with us	Hold up a Bible and say: Leader – Make us to know your ways, O Lord Response – and teach us your paths	Leader - Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray. Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Response - Amen	Leader - The Lord is good Response- He made us and we belong to him
Engage We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God’s message to us.	Watch the video about the life of Paul. As children watch, ask them to identify all the moments Paul showed endurance. How many can you find? click me During all of the events that befell him, Paul never panicked or despaired because he trusted in God. Christians believe that God can be trusted and that he will never leave them, no matter how difficult the situations in which they find themselves become.	Romans 5: 4-6 says ‘endurance produces character, and character produces hope.’ There are many people who are known for their successes, but what you may not know is how many times they failed before succeeding. Michael Jordan, one of the greatest basketball players of all time, was cut from his high school basketball team. What would have happened if quit the first time? Failing is often difficult for us to handle. The important thing to remember is not the failure, but what you do after you fail. When things get difficult and we quit, we miss out on so many opportunities to grow. Thomas Edison once said “Many of life’s failures are men who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.” Instead of giving up, ask God to help you persevere and overcome the challenge.	Read the story Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	Watch/learn/join in with Hillsong Kids as they learn a verse from Hebrews 12.1 let us keep on running the race marked out for us. click me!	We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him. The Bible says ‘if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.’ Romans 8:25 If you’ve been working hard and you’re ready to give up, “be patient” is probably the last thing you want to hear right now. But we have to hope. What do you do to fix that feeling of hopelessness? You carry on with endurance. You persevere. And that perseverance builds the hope you feel you’ve lost.
Respond We respond to what we have heard and seen. We are given the opportunity to worship together.	Dear God When times get hard, help me to endure with patience remembering that you are always with me. Amen	Read Romans 5: 4-6 in full: ‘endurance produces character, and character produces hope. Now this hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.’ Dear God, help me to persevere when I fail, so I can become the person of character you want me to be. Amen.	Listen to piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	Help us, Father, to lay aside everything that weighs us down. Help us to run with perseverance the race that You’ve marked out for us. Strengthen us to fix our eyes on You and You alone, the author and perfecter of our faith. Thank You for hearing our prayer. AMen	Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us. From Anglican liturgy: O God, the King eternal, who divides the day from the darkness; drive far from us all wrong desires, make our hearts ready to keep your law, and guide our feet in the way of peace, that having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may when night comes rejoice and give you thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.
Send We are sent out to love and serve	Leader - Go in peace, Response- We go in peace Leader - Go in joy Response- We go in joy Leader - Go in love Response- We go in love Amen.	Leader - May God grant to the world justice, truth and peace. Response - and make our school a place of love. Amen.	Leader - Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Response - In the name of Christ. Amen	Leader - We go into the world to walk in God’s light, to rejoice in God’s love and to reflect God’s glory. Response – Amen	Leader -May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts Response – Amen.