

TERM 2/YEAR 2 /WEEK 3

CELEBRATE PILGRIM'S JOURNEY 1

This is a famous story (allegory) of the Christian journey which can help us to understand the journey of life and the ways in which Jesus can be alongside us in the challenges which we will face. This series of acts of worships lasts for two weeks. Think about building up a display day by day to remind pupils of the ongoing journey – perhaps each class could add one of the places on a 'map' of the journey. Remember that one episode leads to another so re-capping the events of the previous act of worship will be necessary.

You will need to invest in a child friendly version of the 'Pilgrim's Progress'. Some episodes are suggested – you may want to explore other parts of the story.

SEAL link – Going for Goals

Values link - Perseverance

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Music Songs and hymns about life's journey Eg One more Step, The Journey of Life etc</p> <p>Invite pupil worship leaders to write some bidding and responses on the theme of journeying eg As we travel through life</p> <p>Be with us in the power of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>INTRODUCTION TO JOHN BUNYAN AND PILGRIM'S PROGRESS (whole school) Mark 4:26-34 He was born in 1628 near Bedford during the reign of Charles I. His family background was modest but he received enough schooling to read and write. During the English Civil War (1642-1649), Bunyan was a parliamentarian/puritan. He travelled round as a hawker (paid job) and a preacher (unpaid job) but he did not have a licence to preach. He was arrested and he was in and out of prison for 12 years because he refused to stop preaching. Even in prison he could tell others about his faith by writing "Pilgrim's Progress" This is a book about a special religious journey made to heaven by a pilgrim called Christian. The book paints pictures of all the difficulties and pleasures involved in a life following God. Think about how might "pictures" help us to understand a story better eg the parables of Jesus ' The kingdom of heaven is like.....'</p> <p>THE CITY OF DESTRUCTION (whole school) Hebrews 13 v 14 Tell the first part of the story from your child friendly version Pilgrim lived in the City of Destruction (this world) with his wife and children. He reads in 'The Book' that the city will be destroyed and that he must go on a journey to find a place of 'life and safety' but his family will not believe him so he leaves alone troubled by what he read in the book and weighed down by a great burden on his back. He meets various people including Evangelist, Pliable and Obstinate – what sort of people are these? Think about how difficult it is to take the first step in a</p>	<p>Quotes about prayer from John Bunyan – what did he mean? Think about why it is helpful and important to pray</p> <p>'In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words with out a heart'.</p> <p>'Prayer opens the heart to God, and it is the means by which the soul, though empty, is filled with God'.</p> <p>Start to create a large display in school to which you add a new part each day to remind pupils of Christian's journey – the place he visits and the people he meets. Invite pupils to add prayers eg about not being unduly influenced by others or not being obstinate (and also</p>	<p>Sing 'journeying' songs – especially those with a marching beat Eg We are marching in the light of God</p> <p>We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. Amen</p> <p>Lord, you have brought us to a time of reflection and rest. Calm us, and give us</p>

DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

	<p>long journey. Do we sometimes meet people who try and persuade us to do different things? Is it sometimes difficult to make decisions because of this? We are always making choices – talk about how we make those choices. Relate this to WWJD (What would Jesus do?) and the book where we can find answers, the Bible.</p>	<p>other themes as over the 2 weeks) on post –its A Prayer of St Richard of Chichester (1197-1253) Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.</p> <p>Write prayers based on the qualities that pupils suggest – put them in a big gift box and pray that God will help us to develop these ways of living as we journey through life.</p>	<p>your peace to refresh us. Keep us close to Christ that we may be closer to one another because of his perfect love. In his name we pray. Amen</p>
	<p>THE SWAMP OF SADNESS (whole school) Psalm 40 v 2 For a while, Christian has a friend but only until things get difficult and they reach the Slough of Despair (Swamp of Sadness) and they start to sink. At this first sign of difficulty, Pliable turns back leaving Christian to sink with his heavy burden dragging him down in to the mud. Help comes to the rescue. Think about how God's promises are like stepping stones when people feel like giving up - they are similar to Help in the story. Set up some 'stepping stones' and think about what words you could put on to each stepping stone as a quality in yourself or others as your 'help' in life. Interpreter also helped Christian later on his journey (it may be that John Bunyan was thinking about the Holy Spirit in creating this character – John 14 v26). Even though Christian regained the path, there were people trying to give him easy options for giving up the journey and taking the easy way out. Is it sometimes easier to take the 'soft option' even if the results would be better if we persevered at something? Christian decided not to give up and settle down, but to carry on moving forward.</p>		
	<p>CHRISTIAN LOSES HIS LOAD (class or key stage worship) Matthew 11 v 28-30 Act out the part of the story where Christian comes to a rough path going up a steep hill. He still has a heavy burden. How will he get up the hill? Will it be easy? What are his options? But Christian looks up and sees a Cross at the top of the hill. What does the Cross symbolise? When Christian reached the Cross, the heavy burden rolled away. Three angels come to help him and give him special gifts for the rest of his journey – a key and a scroll. How might these be of use? What would be the best gifts for our journey? – qualities or objects? If we had to write a message for ourselves on a scroll to help us as we travel through life, what would that message or encouragement be?</p>		