

HARVEST FESTIVAL THANKFULNESS

LIVING FRUITFUL LIVES

WORSHIP TABLE

- 3 candles and a Bible open at today's drama, Mark 4.3-9
- Worship cloth or table runner, colour corresponding to the Church season (for further information see www.imaginer.co.uk/obw)
- Thankfulness poster from page 135 (laminated and on a stand)
- Some seeds

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

- Children to explain how they prepared the soil and fed their plants to produce a good harvest. Ideally an example of their crop if not, a photo to go on the screen
- Six children to rehearse and take part in the drama
- Poster of The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26)

TRADITIONAL HARVEST HYMNS

- We plough the fields and scatter
- All things bright and beautiful



Celebrating the Season

Many schools using *Roots and Fruits* will also be following the Church calendar and on one week of the term will be celebrating the appropriate Christian festival. One of the acts of worship in each unit is therefore written to provide a framework for *Celebrating the Season*.

Year B Term 1 takes as its focus the Christian value of **Thankfulness** and will include the celebration of Harvest Festival.

Preparation will be needed to enable the *Celebrating the Season* acts of worship to be as interactive as possible.

Introduction to Harvest Festival

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at the village of Morwentstow in Cornwall. Victorian hymns such as 'We plough the fields and scatter' and 'All things bright and beautiful' helped to popularise his idea of Harvest Festival and spread the annual custom of decorating churches with home-grown produce for the Harvest Festival service.



Welcome

Fade the assembly music and light the three candles on the Worship Table, as the following words are spoken:

WELCOME WORDS 1

We come together in the name of:
God the Father who gives us all things to enjoy,
God the Son who loves the world and all the people in it, and
God the Holy Spirit who gives us the spirit of **thankfulness**.

OR

WELCOME WORDS 2

We have gathered in the name of
God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
to worship together
and think about our value **thankfulness**.

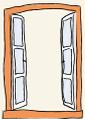


Ask children who have been growing plants in the school garden to come to the front.

These children have brought some of the best crops that our school garden has produced this year. They are going to explain how they prepared and nourished the soil and tended their plants to make sure that the fruit and veg was healthy.

Children explain.

Jesus wanted his followers to know that for a healthy life they needed to be “rooting” themselves in his teaching. He often used stories to help people understand important things. This is one of those stories.



Learning



THE SOWER AND THE SEED

Adapted from Mark 4:3-9

Narrator 1: Once there was a man who went out to sow some seeds.

Man: *(humming)* Today's a great day for planting these seeds!

Narrator 2: As he scattered the seeds some fell along the path.

Seed 1: Yipee! What an impressive, wide path. Everyone will see me shooting up. This will be a great place to grow!

Narrator 1: But, it wasn't a great place to grow.

Seed 1: *(looks around)* Hey, what are these shadows? The sun's out, but there's nothing to make a shadow. There's something wrong here. *(pause)* Oh no, birds!

Narrator 1: And the birds came and gobbled up all the seeds along the path.

Seed 1: He..e..e..lp! *(drops head)*

Narrator 2: Some seeds fell on rocky ground where there wasn't much soil.

Seed 2: Hey, look at me! I'm sprouting! Ha, ha! I even have little roots! Aren't they cute? What a great place to grow!

Narrator 1: But it wasn't a great place to grow.

Seed 2: Boy, that sun is hot! Whew! I'm feeling faint. I wish there weren't so many rocks. Then I could get my roots down deeper. *(pants)* Water! Water!

Narrator 1: Because the sun was so hot and the roots so small, the plant dried up.

Seed 2: *(small voice)* He..e..e..lp! *(drops head)*

Narrator 2: Some seeds fell among the thorns.

Seed 3: *(looks around)* Wow! This isn't bad at all. The neighbours look a little strange, but that's okay. I can deal with that. What a great place to grow!

Narrators: But, it wasn't a great place to grow.

Seed 3: *(looks around suspiciously)* I'm growing, *(pause)* but these neighbours don't look very friendly. In fact, they look meaner every day. I wonder who they are...

Narrator 1: The seed's neighbours were the thorns. And soon the thorns got so mean they choked the young plant before its roots could get down deep into the soil.

Seed 3: He..e..e..lp! *(drops head)*

Narrator 2: But some of the seeds fell on good soil!

Seed 4: Look at this place! This is amazing! There's plenty of good soil and water, and not too much sun. *(looks around)* The neighbours look friendly *(looks up)* and I don't see any birds. What a great place to grow!

Narrators: And it was a great place to grow because that plant had all it needed to produce all the fruit that the farmer had hoped for.



Reflecting

In the Bible there is a book called the Book of Psalms. These are poems and songs that were written thousands of years ago.

Psalm 1 includes these words:

Happy are those
 who find joy in obeying the Law of the Lord....
 They are like trees that grow beside a stream,
 that bear fruit at the right time,
 and whose leaves do not dry up.

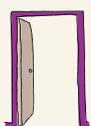
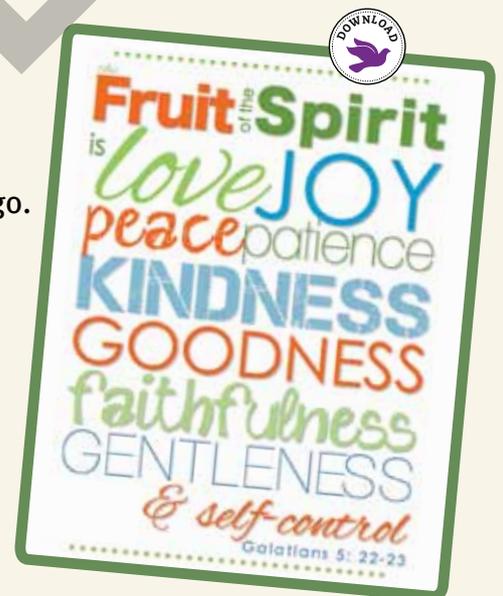
I wonder what the 'fruit' is that the Psalmist is writing about.

Show the Fruit of the Spirit picture.

Look at the poster for 30 seconds. It is called 'The Fruit of the Spirit'. Try to remember as many of the fruits as you can.

After 30 seconds take the image off the screen and ask who can remember at least four. Begin to compile a list on a wipe board until all the 'Fruit' is recalled.

The Fruit of the Spirit is the good things that grow in our lives when they are rooted in God's word.



Responding

This prayer has actions to accompany the last three lines.

Go through the actions with the children, before reading the prayer.

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT PRAYER

Lord of the Harvest
 we welcome your Spirit to work in our lives.
 Let your Word take root so that,
 Your love may grow up, *(reach up)*
 Your joy may spread out, *(reach out)*
 and your peace become deeper in us each day. *(reach down)*
 Amen

TRUST

BEING TRUSTWORTHY, NOT GOSSIPING

WORSHIP TABLE

- 3 candles and a Bible open at today's verses, Proverbs 11.13
- Worship cloth or table runner, colour corresponding to the Church season (for further information see www.imaginer.co.uk/obw)
- Trust poster from page 155 (laminated and on a stand)
- An anti-gossip poster, created by one of the children

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

- A girl and boy puppet (Bella and Barney)
- A box of matches

Black text - Leader's script / *Red text - Instructions and guidance for leader*



Welcome

Fade the assembly music and light the three candles on the Worship Table, as the following words are spoken:

WELCOME WORDS 1

We light three candles in the name of:
God the Father whose promises are true,
God the Son who **trusted** his Father's promises and
God the Holy Spirit who gives us faith to **trust** God today.

OR

WELCOME WORDS 2

We have gathered in the name of
God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
to worship together
and think about our value **trust**.



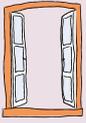
In the Bible there is a book of wise sayings called Proverbs. Here's one of them.

*"No one who gossips can be trusted with a secret,
but you can put confidence in someone who is trustworthy." Proverbs 11:13*

Are you someone who can be **trusted**?

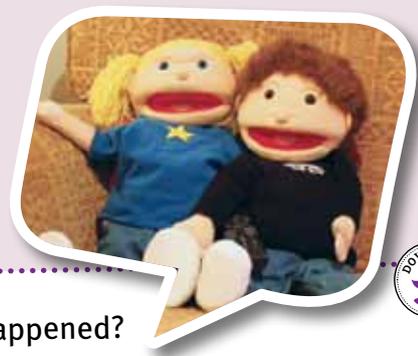
Let's hear what Barney and Bella have been up to.





Learning

Two puppeteers operate puppets Barney and Bella from behind a screen or table covered with a cloth.



- Barney:** Hi Bella! You're looking excited. What's happened?
- Bella:** Barney, you'll never guess what!
- Barney:** What?
- Bella:** You know Mia in Year 5?
- Barney:** Yes.
- Bella:** She was really rude and now Mrs Harding has phoned her Mum to take her home for the rest of the day. Oh.. *(pause)*.. I wasn't supposed to tell anyone. *(pause)* Oh no. I promised Mrs Harding I'd keep it to myself.
- Barney:** What do you mean?
- Bella:** I promised Mrs Harding I wouldn't go around spreading gossip. Oh, I feel really bad now.
- Barney:** How did you know about it in the first place?
- Bella:** I went into the corridor by the office to look for my coat and I heard Mrs Harding phoning Mia's Mum. She knew I'd overheard and told me not to spread it round the school as it was none of my business. And she said, "Bella, can I **trust** you?" Those were her very words! And I said, "Yes you can **trust** me!" But she can't, because now it will be all over the school and she'll know who told everyone, and...oh dear! *(begins to sob)*
- Barney:** It's alright, Bella, don't cry! You've only told one person and that's me.
- Bella:** I know, but now it will get out to everybody!
- Barney:** No it won't! I won't tell anyone, and you'll make sure you don't tell anyone else, OK?
- Bella:** OK, but can I really **trust** you Barney, not to tell anyone?
- Barney:** I might get lots of things wrong, but I do know that I can be **trusted!**

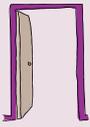


Reflecting

Being **trustworthy** can be difficult. It is always tempting to pass on gossip, especially when we think others will want to hear it.

But we need to be people that others can **trust**.

How **trustworthy** are you?



Responding

We can show that we are **trustworthy** friends by not gossiping. I wonder how we decide what is news and what's just gossip?

One way of deciding is to ask yourself 4 questions before you speak.

Is it true?

Is it kind?

Is it helpful?

Is it anything to do with me?

If you're not sure of these things, then perhaps the 'news' is really gossip and you shouldn't spread it.

Some teachers will prefer not to use matches. If so, substitute an alternative prayer.



PRAYER TO STAMP OUT GOSSIP

Let us pray.

Light a match and hold it up for a moment.

Gossip is someone else's news that we have not been given permission to pass on. If we do then it can be like a tiny flame that begins a fire that spreads far and wide. Gossip is like fire, it hurts people.

Blow out the match and all respond.

Sorry Lord, for the times we gossip.

Light another match.

Gossip is news that has nothing to do with us. It spreads bad things about people.

Blow out the match and all respond.

Sorry Lord, for the times we gossip.

Light another match.

Gossip can get out of control and soon it can turn into lies.

Blow out the match and all respond.

Sorry Lord, for the times we gossip.

Lord, we know we should never play with matches. Help us not to play with gossip either, so that we can be **trustworthy** friends and people won't get hurt.

Amen



Fruits from the Roots



STAMP OUT GOSSIP. DON'T LET IT SPREAD.

Design an anti-gossip poster for your classroom.



SERVICE

USING OUR TALENTS TO SERVE

WORSHIP TABLE

- 3 candles and a Bible open at today's verse, Galatians 5.13
- Worship cloth or table runner, colour corresponding to the Church season (for further information see www.imaginer.co.uk/obw)
- Service poster from page 219 (laminated and on a stand)
- Large bucket / box set up for a Talent Tub, containing plastic cubes, dried pasta, Lego bricks, strips of text (see below) etc

PREPARATION AND RESOURCES

- 7 cards, one for each letter of the word SERVICE. On the back of each card the line from the acrostic poem that begins with the letter
- Talk partners will be needed

Black text - Leader's script / *Red text - Instructions and guidance for leader*



Welcome

Fade the assembly music and light the three candles on the Worship Table, as the following words are spoken:

WELCOME WORDS 1

This day may we know:
the love of God our Father,
the gift of God's Son, the Servant King, and
the freedom of God's own Spirit.

OR

WELCOME WORDS 2

We have gathered in the name of
God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
to worship together
and think about our value **service**.



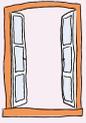
Our Words of Wisdom for the value **service** are

'Serve one another in love.' Galatians 5.13

We all have talents that we can use to **serve** others or brighten up their lives.

Perhaps you have a hidden talent waiting to be discovered!





Learning

In a moment I am going to ask some helpers to use this Talent Tub to find statements that are true of children in our school. Maybe one of them describes you.

Bring out the Talent Tub. Have the following statements (or others that are more relevant to your school) written on strips of card. Invite children to come up, dip into the tub, find statements and read them out.



- I can sing really well...I could join the school choir
- I like being organised...I could help more to keep the house tidy
- I like sport...I could help organize a games tournament in school
- I am a really good listener... maybe I could take more time to listen to a friend's worries or volunteer to be a peer mediator
- I love making people laugh and having fun...I could serve others by cheering them up and encouraging them when they're down

All of these are ways of using your talents to **serve** others and make a difference.

Choose a group of children to stand up at the front, each holding a card with a different letter of the value word and with the corresponding acrostic line from the value poem on the back. Ask the children in turn to read the line then flip over the card to show the corresponding line of the poem to everyone.

Some of today's helpers have the letters that spell '**service**'. They are going to read an acrostic poem that describes **service**. The letters of the word begin each line of the poem.



SERVICE IS...
Spending time on others
Enjoying giving help
Responsibility in action
Volunteering willingly
I second, you first
Committing to a task
Everyone offering their talents and gifts

It would be helpful to display the poem on a screen so that children can read through it again.

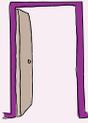
Talk with a partner about which line you think is the best way of describing **service** and why.



Reflecting

Think about what you are good at or something you enjoy doing. It could be a practical skill (sport, music, maths etc) or a value you think is important such as being trustworthy, generous, or friendly. How could you **serve** others by using one of them? Maybe you could develop a hidden talent that no one yet knows about!

What would you write if you had a strip of card in the Talent Tub?



Responding

Can you spot a good **server**?

Some of the best **servers** are people who quietly help others without any fuss, so you will need to be a good detective!



SERVING OTHERS PRAYER

Father God

Thank you for the many different skills, gifts and qualities you have given us,

Help us to **serve** others with willing hands (*lift hands in front of you*),

with generous hearts (*put hand on heart*)

and with kind words (*move hand away from mouth*).

Use our eyes and ears to notice how others **serve** us (*point to eyes and ears*)

and remind us to show our gratitude and thanks

to our teachers (*point towards a teacher*),

helpers in school (*point towards the playground*),

our parents (*point towards the school gates*)

and our friends (*sweeping gesture*).

In serving others in love, may we also **serve** you.

Amen



Fruits from the Roots



SIGNS OF SERVICE

Put a tall, transparent container on the worship table and a tub of marbles close by. When children notice someone performing an act of **service** this week, ask them to put a marble in the jar. Ask them to be ready to share what they have observed in the celebration assembly later in the week.



The leader of the worship can hold up the jar and show how many signs of **service** have been seen.

