

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

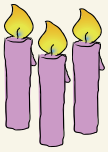
Many schools using *Roots and Fruits* will also be following the Church calendar and on one week of the term will be celebrating the appropriate Christian festival. One of the acts of worship in each unit is therefore written to provide a framework for *Celebrating the Season*.

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.

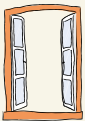


Ask children who have been growing plants in the school garden to come to the front.

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.

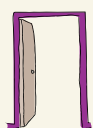
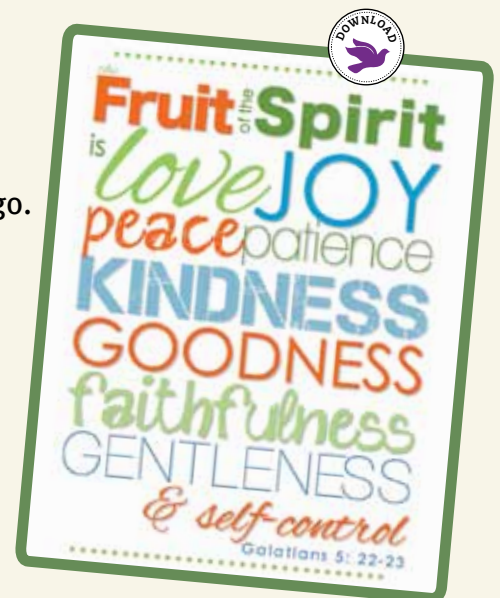
I wonder what the 'fruit' is that the Psalmist is writing about.

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