

Teaching of St Paul



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A display could be created in your hall on the life and teachings of St Paul to use as a focus for your worship. Ideas for this display are given with the contents for each Collective Worship.

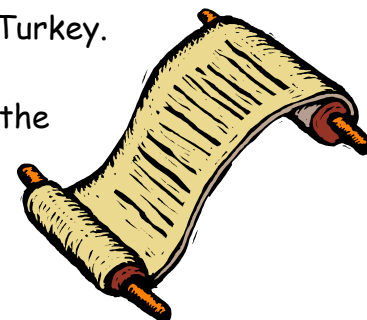
1 Corinthians 13 Faith, Hope and Love

This worship will take three sessions, one on each word. The questions below each word give ideas for 'Making the Connection' and give ideas for a 'talk.' Don't forget to give the children time to reflect on the word and to pray.

Focus for display

A map of the Mediterranean with the places you make reference to in this series marked on it. E.g. Corinth and Thessalonica in Greece and Ephesus in Turkey.

A scroll letter addressed to the people in the Church at Corinth (see the opening of 1 Corinthians 1).



The words...."these three remain, faith, hope and love and the greatest of these is love."

Faith

- What is faith?
- What does it mean to have faith?
- Belief and trust
- What do we have faith in?

Father

And

In the Son and in

The

Holy Spirit

- People in the Bible who had faith
- People in recent history who have/had tremendous faith e.g.

Mother Theresa, Desmond Tutu, Martin Luther King.

Hope

What does hope mean?

What sort of things do we hope for?

Do we always get what we hope for?

Hope is positive.

Christian hope of the return of Jesus and knowledge that there is life after death.

What do we hope for the future of our school?

What are we hoping to do when we grow up?



Love

"But the greatest of these is Love." 1 Cor 13 v13

Use percussion instruments to illustrate the beginning of 1 Cor 13.!

Who loves us? Why?

Who do we love? Why?

How does it make us feel when we know we are loved?

How do we know when someone loves us?

How do we show that we love someone?

Discuss loving someone and something.

There are different kinds of love. Saying that you love chocolate is very different to saying that you love your parents.

We sometimes say that we love going to certain places.

Why? What is it about those places that makes them so special?

There are more ideas on 'Love' in the series called 'God is'

Ephesians

Wearing the armour of God

Focus for display

For this worship it would be good if you had the shape of a person in dark paper fixed on the wall in the hall. (You could draw round a child or colleague to get the right proportions etc)

Have ready the various pieces of armour to stick on to the figure in silver or bright colours.

Ephesians 6

Make the Connection

What is armour?

Who wears armour?

Why do people wear armour?

Who wears armour today?

Have any of you worn armour?



Talk

In his letter to the Ephesians Saint Paul describes the armour of God and tells Christians that they should put it on! Read the passage from Ephesians 6: 10-18 to the children, discussing the meaning of each piece of armour. As you do this, stick your pieces of armour on your shape of a person.

Pause for thought

Lead the children in a short meditation (quiet time) where they imagine they are putting on the armour of God. You might like to focus on one piece of armour in particular e.g. the 'belt of truth.

Prayer

Pray that we will always remember to put on the armour of God so that we are protected from evil.

1 Thessalonians

"Be Joyful always. Pray continually"

Focus for display

Lots of different faces from around the world smiling, laughing etc, surrounding the word joy. A picture of praying hands, people praying or copies of a variety of prayers and/or prayer books.

Make the Connection

Ask the children 'If you love God what sort of things do you do?' How do we behave?

Talk

St Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians writes very clearly two things that we should do. "Be joyful always. Pray continually." Wow! What a challenge. Who likes to be happy? What makes us happy? Is it possible to be happy all the time? Sing a couple of verses of "If you're happy and you know it."

But St Paul tells us to be joyful always. So through the good times and the bad times we must always have joy in our hearts and that joy is Jesus. So even when we are feeling sad the joy of Jesus is in our hearts.

Sing

"Jesus put this song into our hearts." Pray continually! When do you say your prayers? How? Where? Paul says pray continually this means we must pray all day at anytime.

Pause for thought

Ask the children to reflect on these 2 phrases and put things up on the display as they do.

Prayer

Give the children the opportunity to say their own prayers silently and then finish by leading them in saying The Lord's Prayer or The Grace.



Philippians 14

"Do everything without complaining....."

Make the Connection

Ask the children and staff if they have ever complained about anything. Why? How? Where? When?

Set up a few two line dramas with some of the older children e.g. situations like switching off the TV and going to bed, eating vegetables, shopping, tidying up etc e.g. "Eat all of your green beans, they are good for you." "Do I have to, they are horrible?"



Talk

In his letter to the Philippians Paul tells the people to do everything without complaining. Do you think we could really do that? It wouldn't be easy because the world we live in encourages us to moan about things - Look at the news and newspapers. Explain that sometimes it is important to complain e.g. if you have bought something and it is not working properly. However, what would the world be like if we stopped moaning? Repeat the 2 line dramas with the response lines changed from a complaint/moan into a positive comment.

Pause for thought

Give the children a short time to reflect on what they have heard. Guide their thoughts and give them the challenge of trying to think before moaning and complaining.

Focus for Display

Add the Philippians quote to your display with speech bubbles full of positive comments e.g. "Never mind that it is raining we'll play indoors instead." "I will tidy up for you." "I don't mind picking up litter."

Prayer

Ask God to help us all to stop moaning!

Colossians 3

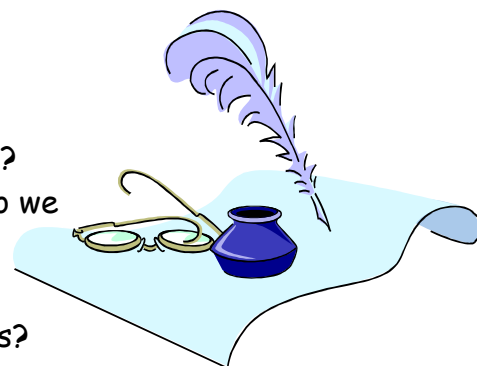
Rules for Holy Living

Focus for Display

Write a list of rules based on the rules for holy living found in Colossians 3:1-17.

Make the Connection

What are rules? Who makes up the rule? What are the rules? School rules and the rules of the country i.e. the law. Why do we have rules? What would the world be like if there were no rules? What would the world be like if everyone kept the rules? Why should we keep the rules? Is it easy to keep rules? Discuss all these questions with the children.



Talk

In his letter to the Colossians St Paul gives the people 'Rules for Holy Living.' The passage is too difficult to read straight from the Bible so adapt it for the children and create a list of rules that are easy to understand e.g. Saint Paul said that we must set our minds on Jesus and good things. We must not be greedy, angry, use horrible words or lie. Why?

Verses 12 to 15 tell us to be kind, gentle and patient. We must forgive one another and not bear grudges. We should love one another and let peace rule our hearts. Ask the children if they think it would be easy following these rules. No! It isn't easy but we must try and live as Jesus would like us to live.

Pause for thought

Pin up the Rules for Holy Living on your display. Give the children time to think about these rules and the challenge that Saint Paul gives us. Read the rules aloud once more and use verses e.g. 12 and 15 from the passage in Colossians to focus the children's thoughts.

Prayer

Pray that God will give us the strength and courage to follow these rules for holy living. Ask for God's blessing and peace on all members of the school community.