

Term- Spring Term 1 2023				
Colours of the cross: White- Epiphany				
Week	Week beginning	Weekly Theme	Prayer	Reflection
1	Wednesday 4 th January	Welcome back		
	Monday 9 th January	Theme: Epiphany Read Matthew 2:1-12 The Lion Storyteller Bible – The Wise Men’s visit Not much is known about the visitors from the East who came after Jesus was born. Tradition says that there were ‘three wise men’ but actually we only know that there were three gifts – gold, frankincense and myrrh. Some say they were Jews left in Babylon after the exile. Some say they came from three different lands to represent the entire world. Wherever they came from, and whoever they were, we do know that they followed a star to the city of Bethlehem which God had promised would be the birthplace of ‘a new ruler, who will be the shepherd of my people’. The Bible uses the words child and house, not infant and animal shelter, so we can assume that their journey was long and that some time had passed since Jesus had been born. As soon as they saw Jesus, they kneeled down and worshipped him	Dear God Thank you for the story of the Wise men. Thank you that they were willing to follow the star. Help us to listen to those who guide us and follow their advice. Help us to guide, encourage and help others too. Amen	Star activity Set up a small display with black paper to represent the night sky and have enough gold cardboard stars for each pupil. Make a connection with the story and how Christians believe God put a star in the sky to help guide the Magi to find Jesus. Is there something that you need guidance about? Is there something you need help with? If you want to, you can write a thought or prayer for help or guidance onto a star and stick it onto the ‘night sky’
	Roots and Fruits	Theme: People who met Jesus Value: hope Bible text: Luke 2.22-32, 36-38 Simeon and Anna. Joseph and Mary took baby Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord. At the time a man called Simeon was living in Jerusalem, was waiting for Israel to be saved, he was filled with the holy spirit which placed a deep hope that he would see the messiah with his own eyes.	Lord Jesus may the light of your love burn brightly in our hearts today and bless our school with your presence and peace. Amen.	Painting by John Swanson, If you could describe the painting in one word or phrase, what would it be?

3	Monday 16 th January	<p>Theme: Judges and kings- Joshua</p> <p>Read Joshua 6:1-20 The Lion Storyteller and Storyteller Family Bible – The Walls Fall Down</p> <p>The Israelites travelled around for many years before crossing the Jordan River and entering the promised land. Joshua was now their leader and relied on God in much the same way as Moses had. The first obstacle was the city of Jericho, a typically fortified settlement ruled over by a petty king. Rather than a frontal attack God instructed Joshua to march around the city walls once a day in silence. After six days they were told to process around seven times, then, on command, to shout. Hardly a terribly practical way of getting into a walled city, except for the fact that as the people shouted the walls crumbled. God at work again. Slowly the entire land was divided up and the various families, now tribes in their own right, took possession of the country. The land of Canaan where Abraham had settled all those centuries earlier was now theirs.</p>	<p>Dear God Thank you for our learning about the story of Joshua today and how you helped Joshua in his time of need. Help us when we find things are difficult. Thank you for the people who help us when things are difficult.</p> <p>Amen</p>	<p>Build a prayer and reflection wall using the brick template.</p> <p>Please prayers</p> <p>Encourage pupils to write their please prayers or reflections on some 'bricks'. These might be things they would like the courage to do this week or their prayers or reflections for help for themselves or others.</p> <p>Thank you prayers</p> <p>Encourage pupils to write their thank-you's for those who help them and give them advice on some 'bricks'</p> <p>Build a prayer and reflection wall using the bricks.</p>
	Roots and Fruits	<p>Theme: People who met Jesus</p> <p>Value: wisdom</p> <p>Bible text: Luke 2.41-50 The teachers in the temple. Jesus's parents were extremely worried when he was missing from their group of people returning from the Passover feasts. He was found back in the temple not only listening to the religious leaders but asking them lots of questions. Such was his wisdom, Luke records that the teachers were 'amazed.'</p>	<p>Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for the power of questions, their power to challenge our attitudes, their power to make us think more deeply, their power to help us reflect and their power to grow our understanding. Give us the wisdom to ask good questions as we look to you as our example and teacher. Amen</p>	<p>'A prudent question is one half of wisdom.' Francis Bacon.</p> <p>What do you think this quote means?</p>

4	Monday 23rd January	<p>Theme: Judges and kings- Gideon. Read Judges 6-8 The Lion Storyteller Bible – A brave and mighty man</p> <p>As the Israelites settled into their Promised Land, they quickly forgot all that God had done for them. Soon they were being terrorised by marauding tribes who would carry off their harvest, forcing them to hide their food supply. God chose to intervene and selected Gideon as his champion. Gideon was from a small family in an insignificant tribe and no great leader. He did manage to call an army together, but God felt it was too big so suggested that those with better things to do than fight need not stay. A further test whittled the army down to a mere three hundred men. Armed with a pottery jar containing a lamp and a trumpet this mini army surrounded the enemy camp. On the command the jars were shattered, the lamps sprung into light and the trumpets blared. The startled and nervous enemy fought amongst themselves. Gideon and his three hundred were victorious.</p>	<p>Dear God, Thank you for the story of Gideon. Thank you that we all have strengths and talents we can use to help others. Help us to listen even when we are asked to do something big or challenging. Help us to have courage to say yes. Amen</p>	<p>Talk to pupils about how Gideon listened and was a 'courageous learner' Encourage pupils to take a moment in quiet to reflect on positive, or powerful words they could use to describe themselves and others in their class and the ways they show how they are good listeners and courageous learners. You could use the outline of a horn for pupils to write these words down and display them in class. You could encourage pupils this week to notice when they and others display these qualities or actions this week</p>
	Roots and Fruits	<p>Theme: People who met Jesus Value: Hope Bible text: Matthew 3.13-17. John the Baptist. John was Jesus's cousin and his vocation was to awaken peoples hope by pointing to Jesus who he described as 'the lamb of god who takes away the sins of the world.' John baptised Jesus and God assured Jesus of his true identity and anointed him with the holy spirit, symbolised by the dove descending.</p>	<p>Dear God, we are sorry for anything we have said or done that may have hurt others. Give us hope by washing away what is past. Fill us with your power to live in a way that is pleasing to you and loving towards others. Amen.</p>	<p>How did the people who were watching Jesus being baptised know they were witnessing a very special moment?</p>

5	Monday 30th January Theme: Interfaith Week – respectful Presence	<p>Theme: Judges and kings -Samson Read Judges 13:2-5, 24; 16:1-22 The Lion Storyteller Bible – Samson’s great deeds, Samson and Delilah and Samson and the Philistines You could split this in to two collective worships this week if you wanted.</p> <p>The Israelite nation was always at the mercy of their stronger neighbours, this time it was the warlike Philistines. Samson was set apart even before his birth to be special, he lived by particular rules, but at times chose to ignore them. These were violent times and Samson reacted, his anger was always against the aggressors, the people who were trying to control the Israelites. He was amazingly strong but was not always wise in his choice of companions. Foolishly he allowed the secret of his strength to be known. It lay not just in his hair, but the obedience to God that it represented. After his head was shaved, he was easily overcome and mocked by the victorious Philistines. Blind and shackled, he was put on display in one of their pagan temples. He prayed to God and used his returning power to destroy the building.</p>	<p>Dear God, thank you for the story of Samson, help us to be strong to do what is right, when we are worried give us the strength and courage to ask for help. Help us to be brave to stand against what is wrong and kind to those who need our help.</p> <p>Amen</p>	
	Roots and Fruits	<p>Theme: People who met Jesus Value: Dignity Bible text: Luke 4.1-13 The tempter. Jesus was led by God out into barren land to prey and fast for what lie ahead in his life. The devil tempted Jesus, yet Jesus drew on God’s word to remain faithful to his calling and refused to forfeit the dignity his father had given him.</p>	<p>Lord Jesus, give us courage to act justly, your compassion to show mercy and your humility to put others before ourselves. Amen.</p>	<p>Act justly, walk humbly and love mercy. Can you use other words to describe what they mean?</p>
6	Monday 6th February	<p>Theme: Judges and kings -Samuel Read 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 20; 3; 8:1-22 The Lion Storyteller Bible – Samuel hears a voice.</p> <p>Hannah was so grateful to God that she gave up her son, Samuel, to serve at the Shiloh tabernacle. While he was still a child, God spoke directly to Samuel, giving him a message for the High Priest Eli. This was the beginning of his God given job as a prophet for Israel, a messenger from God. His chief role was to bring the nation back to the worship of the one God. Under his influence the people destroyed their pagan shrines and statues and returned to following God’s rules for daily life. They won a great victory over the Philistines but then clamoured for their own king. Despite being warned of the disadvantages of a monarchy the people insisted and Samuel duly anointed Saul as their first king. At first things went well for the king, but it did not last and before long doing things God’s way was forgotten.</p>	<p>Dear God Thank you for the story of Samuel and what it teaches about listening. Thank you for our ears so we can hear. Help us to use our ears wisely and listen carefully when others are talking. Help us to listen well to each other in school this week.</p> <p>Amen</p>	<p>We hear noises all the time, but we rarely stop and listen to what we are hearing. Be still for a couple of minutes. What can you hear? If you want to, you can draw or write about what you can hear onto the outline of an ear provided. You could display these in class and talk about how we can together try to be good listeners this week in school</p>

	Roots and Fruits	<p>Theme: People who met Jesus Value: Community Bible text: John 1.43-50 Nathaniel. Nathaniel in other gospels is known as Bartholomew. He became a member of the community of learners who would accompany Jesus for the next three years to learn about God's love for the world.</p>	<p>Lord Jesus, we thank you for the saints down the ages, starting with the 12 disciples, who left everything to follow you and serve others. Give us your wisdom and insight to know how we too can make a difference and change the world for good. Amen.</p>	
7	Monday 13th February	<p>Theme: Judges and kings David and Samuel. Read 1 Samuel 16 The Lion Storyteller Bible – Samuel the kingmaker</p> <p>Despite his good start Saul was not a Godly king and even while he still reigned Samuel was sent to search for his replacement. The prophet travelled to the hill settlement of Bethlehem to visit Jesse and offer a sacrifice, but God had sent him there to identify the next king. Jesse's sons were all introduced, fine men, just the sort to be a warrior king, but God made it clear to Samuel that none of them were his choice. Eventually the youngest of the family was brought in from his sheep minding to be presented to the prophet and Samuel knew that he had found the one. There in the domestic setting David was secretly anointed king, heir to Saul's throne. It was many years later, and after a lot of heartbreak that David did become king, meanwhile it was back to the sheep.</p>	<p>You could use this time to ask pupils who would like to say thank you prayers for the qualities they see in each other.</p>	<p>Choose a selection of the character traits cards on the attached template suitable for your class or create your own.</p> <p>Instructions for pupils Read the words on the crowns. Find a friend. Take three words that you think best describe each other. Talk about why you have chosen those words for each other. -What words would you most like people to use to describe you?</p> <p>Suggested follow up discussion questions: 'What words do you most like people to use when they describe you?' 'Why did you choose this card?' 'When have you seen them behaving this way?' 'Have you ever told them they are like this?' 'How much does this description match what you think of yourself?' 'How does it feel knowing that someone else sees this as true of you?'</p> <p>(Adapted from the character traits activity from Prayer Spaces in Schools)</p>

	Roots and Fruits	<p>Theme: People who met Jesus</p> <p>Value: Dignity</p> <p>Bible text: Matthew 19. 13-14. The children. Children, along with many others in society had no rights. Jesus did not conform to the cultural values of his day and saw everyone equal in God's eyes. Jesus showed his disciples a powerful demonstration that a new way of life and thinking was opening up, one where the least would become the greatest in the eyes of God.</p>	<p>Dear Jesus, thank you for showing the disciples that you love and welcome everybody including children. May we always remember the story we have heard today and at times when we feel pushed aside, remember that you think we are important. Thank you for the people in our lives who give us dignity and make us feel valued and special. Amen.</p>
Spring half term			