



Catholic Schools Week 2021

Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience

Third and Fourth Class/P5-P6



COMMUNITIES OF ...

FAITH

LEARNING

LOVE

RESILIENCE

HOPE



Third and Fourth Class: From the Curriculum – Level 3

Christian Faith	Word of God
<p>Mystery of God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is faithful and compassionate (CCC 205). • God is all-knowing and all-powerful (CCC 268). • God knows and loves me personally (CCC 300). • God calls people and they respond (vocation). • Christians live their faith in God through prayer and action (faith as living/witnessing). • Christians live their faith in God through prayer and action (faith as living/witnessing). • Faith challenges Christians to work for the Kingdom/Reign of God (CCC 542). <p>Strand Unit: Mystery of the Church/Kingdom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members of the Christian family are called to worship God and to serve their communities in imitation of Jesus. 	
Liturgy and Prayer	Christian Morality
<p>Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus promised to be present where people gather in his name (Mt 18:20). • We can pray anywhere and any time (CCC 2660; CSRE 2c). <p>Formal Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Father (CCC 2759) 	<p>Human Dignity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gives us gifts and talents to use them for his glory, for our own growth, for the wellbeing of others and the care of creation. • When we use our God-given talents, the likeness of God grows in us (Gn 2:27). <p>Human Freedom and Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer plays an important role in our decision-making. • When we choose to respond to God’s love, we become more like him, e.g. loving, compassionate, merciful. <p>Social Teaching of the Church</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus saw the gift and worth of each person. Therefore, the Christian is called to show love to everyone without exception (CCC 1825). • God blesses those who care for the poor (Mt 25:31-36; CCC 2443-47).



Monday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith

25 January 2021

‘And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you’ (Luke 11:9).

Consider:

- We live in uncertain and often scary times. This pandemic has changed the way we live our lives. Our faith is more important now than ever. Through prayer, we deepen our faith and strengthen our relationship with God.
- During this pandemic there are times when we may need to pray for someone or ask God’s help to be strong and brave when we feel worried and afraid.

Explore:

- When Jesus gave his disciples the Lord’s Prayer as an example of how to pray he showed us that we should pray about many things. He wants us to tell him about what we need, but he also wants us to take time to thank him for all that we have. He wants us to tell him about the things that we have done wrong and to pray for other people.
- What do you think Prayer is?
Prayer is talking to God and listening for God to talk to us. It is opening our hearts – our fears, hopes, joys and sadness – and letting God know how we feel.
- Why do we pray?
We pray because we want to be close to God and God wants us to be close to him. We want to tell God how we are feeling and we need God’s help and guidance every day to live the way he wants us to live.
- When can you pray?
We can pray at any time, day or night. God is always there and ready to hear the prayers of our hearts.
- Where can you pray?
Since God is always with us we can pray anywhere. Sometimes people like to set aside a quiet place to pray. This could be in a bedroom, out under a tree, in the car, any place that we can pause to talk with God. It doesn’t matter whether you are sitting or standing or kneeling.
- We often hold our hands together as a gesture of respect to God. We can sometimes close our eyes because it can help block out other thoughts and allow us to really concentrate on our prayer to God. When we talk to God we want to give him our ‘undivided attention!’



- How long should your prayers be?
There is no set time limit for prayer. God will listen to us for as long as we want to pray. Sometimes our prayers will be longer because we have more to say to God. The length of the prayer doesn't matter.

Let us say the Lord's Prayer together now and really think about the words as we pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Activity:

MAKING A PRAYER CUBE

A simple way to help us get into the practice of praying the different types of prayers is to make and use a prayer cube. One cube can be made for a group or each individual can make one.

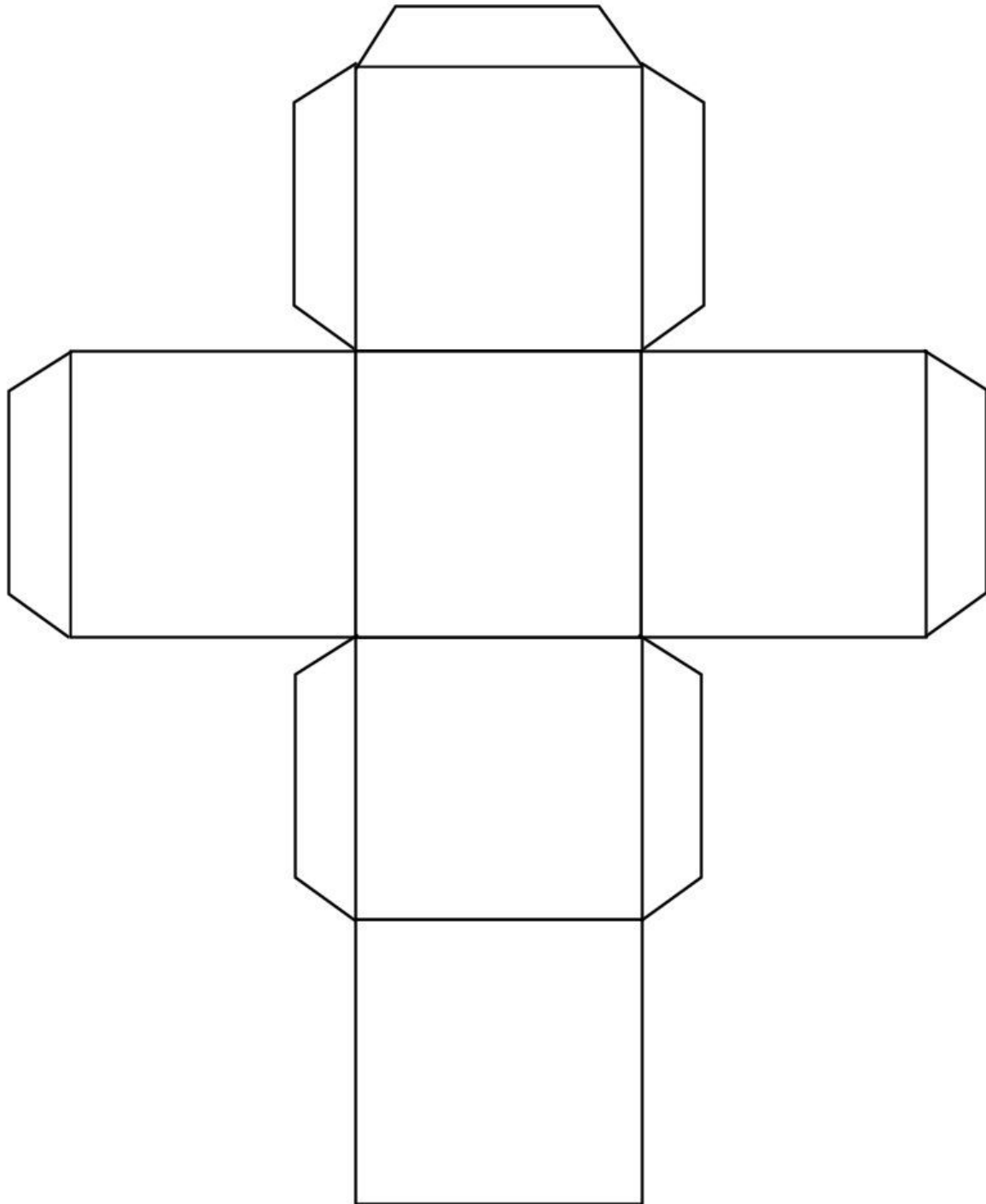
Instructions to make:

1. Photocopy the prayer cube template worksheet on card.
2. In the centre square write your name clearly.
3. In each of the other squares write one of the following: Praise, Sorry, Thanks, For Me, For Others.
4. Decorate the various faces of the cube in whatever way you desire.
5. Cut out the prayer cube as carefully as possible.
6. Fold into a cube and stick or tape the edges together. Before the final side is taped into place fill the cube with crumpled tissue paper to give some strength to the cube.

Instructions to use:

1. Take turns tossing the cube and offering a prayer of the type displayed on top.
2. Toss the cube until all sides have been displayed if possible.
3. If the 'Prayer Cube Belong to' side is displayed the person can choose what type of prayer to offer.
4. Place the Prayer Cube in a prominent place to be used at other times for prayer.







Tuesday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Learning

26 January 2021

‘Make me to know your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths’ (Psalm 25:4).

Consider:

- Catholic schools are communities of learning. We learn together every day.
- As Catholic schools we learn from the example of others.
- Through history we witness time and time again people who put their trust in God in difficult situations and set about living their lives in witness to God’s love. We can learn from their example and go out into our communities and bear witness to the love of God in our own actions and deeds.

Explore:

- Explore how God’s love inspired others in our communities to live as Jesus asks us to despite the challenges they faced as a result of the pandemic?
- Encourage the class to discuss and share any stories that they recall of times where communities and individuals responded to the difficulties presented by the lockdown to celebrate and/or support each other.
- People are often called to respond to God’s call and through his love are inspired to go out into the community and help others. Mother Teresa of Calcutta is an example of someone who responded to God’s call to help those who were most in need and suffering. Her faith and hope in God moved her to go out into her community and devote her life to helping the poor and needy. Through her story we learn about how God’s love gives us strength to show his love to others in their time of need.

Activity 1:

Read the following story to the class:

Mother Teresa, also known as Saint Teresa of Calcutta, was born on 26 August 1910.

At the age of eighteen, she joined the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland. She wanted to learn English so she could become a missionary with the Sisters of Loreto in India.

Sister Teresa was transferred to the convent school of the Sisters of Loreto in Calcutta, and she taught there for almost twenty years. During her years teaching, she became very upset by the number of people who lived in poverty in the slums around Calcutta. A slum is an overcrowded, dirty, dangerous area where poor people live.

In 1948, Teresa decided to start wearing a cotton sari (traditional Indian dress) with a blue border. With only basic medical training, Teresa went out into the slums. She founded a school and started caring for the poor and the hungry. Women began joining her in her work in 1949. She decided to start a new community that would dedicate their lives to caring for people who no one else wanted to care for.

The road to starting a new community was filled with difficulties but that did not stop Teresa. In 1950, Teresa became Mother Teresa and founded the Missionaries of Charity who would care for the poor and those who had no one to care for them.

When she died, the Missionaries of Charity had grown to more than 4,000 sisters and 300 brothers working at 610 missions in more than 123 countries.

Mother Teresa gave so much to so many people. Mother Teresa died on 5 September 1997 at the age of 87. Saint Teresa’s feast day is 5 September.

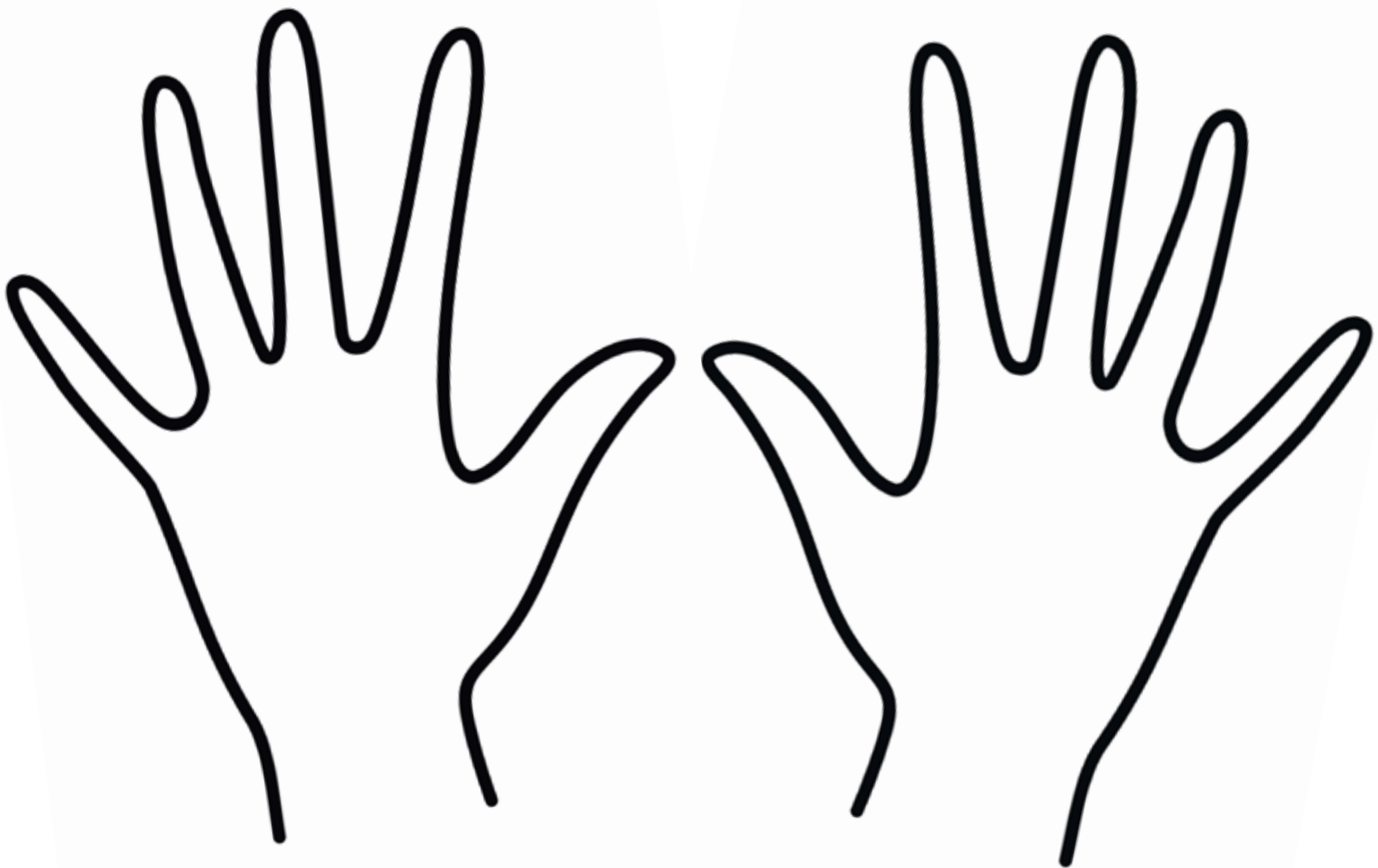
Mother Teresa was called to help others. She was called to live like Jesus and in the face of suffering she spread love. We are called to live like Jesus and show love to others. During this pandemic people all over the country and indeed the world, showed love for each other by staying at home and following health guidelines.



Activity 2:

HELPING HANDS

- Mother Teresa gave a helping hand to the poor and the needy that she met in her life. We can learn from her example.
- Discuss ways in every-day life that we can give a helping hand. Distribute a copy of the hand template provided to each child in the class. Encourage them to draw or write on the hand examples of how they can give a helping hand to others at this time.
- When I serve others, I serve God.





Wednesday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Love

27 January 2021

Grandparents Day - Love is intergenerational

‘And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love’ (Corinthians 13:13).

Consider:

- During Catholic Schools Week each year schools celebrate the important role played by grandparents in passing on the faith. This intergenerational love is to be celebrated and cherished especially this year where so many children were separated from their grandparents who may have been cocooning.
- As this pandemic continues to affect our lives it is possible that grandparents may not be able to visit our schools as normal. It is however, more important than ever to continue to show our grandparents our gratitude and celebrate all that they do for us.

Explore:

- Our grandparents love us unconditionally just as God loves us unconditionally. They show this love in many ways. One of the most important ways is by showing us how they know God and how important God is in their lives.
- Encourage the children in your class to write a letter to their grandparents to remind them of how much they are loved . (This could also be done for a grandparent who has passed away.) If the school is unable to host the annual Grandparents day celebration in school then 3rd to 6th class may wish to work on individual mini projects about their grandparents.
- The following questions could be used to interview grandparents and the answers recorded in written form. Each child could compile their answers and decorate their work to create a display for the classroom or common areas in the school.





Questions:

1. Did you come from a big family? How many brothers and sisters did you have?
2. Where did you go to school? What was your favourite subject?
3. What games did you play at school? Who did you play with? Did you like to read books?
4. What was your favourite book?
5. What was your favourite time of year?
6. What kinds of occasions did you celebrate? Where did you celebrate them?
7. Did you have a best friend?
8. What kinds of things did you do together?
9. Did you have a pet?
10. What was your favourite food?
11. What do you remember about your First Communion or your Confirmation Day?
12. What were your favourite payers growing up?
13. What do you remember about the time when I was born?
14. Recall one special memory you have of a time you spent with your grandparent.
15. Write a short prayer of thanks to God for giving you such special grandparents.





Thursday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Resilience

27 January 2021

‘The Lord is close to the broken hearted’ (Psalm 34:18).

Consider:

- The complexities of the current crisis can cause fear and feelings that children may find hard to articulate. Children have undoubtedly heard that the elderly and those with underlying conditions are vulnerable to the virus. They may be worried about their own health and the health of family members. They may already have lost someone to the virus.
- Through a focus on God’s love we can help children develop the coping skills necessary to understand, manage and respond to loss.

Explore:

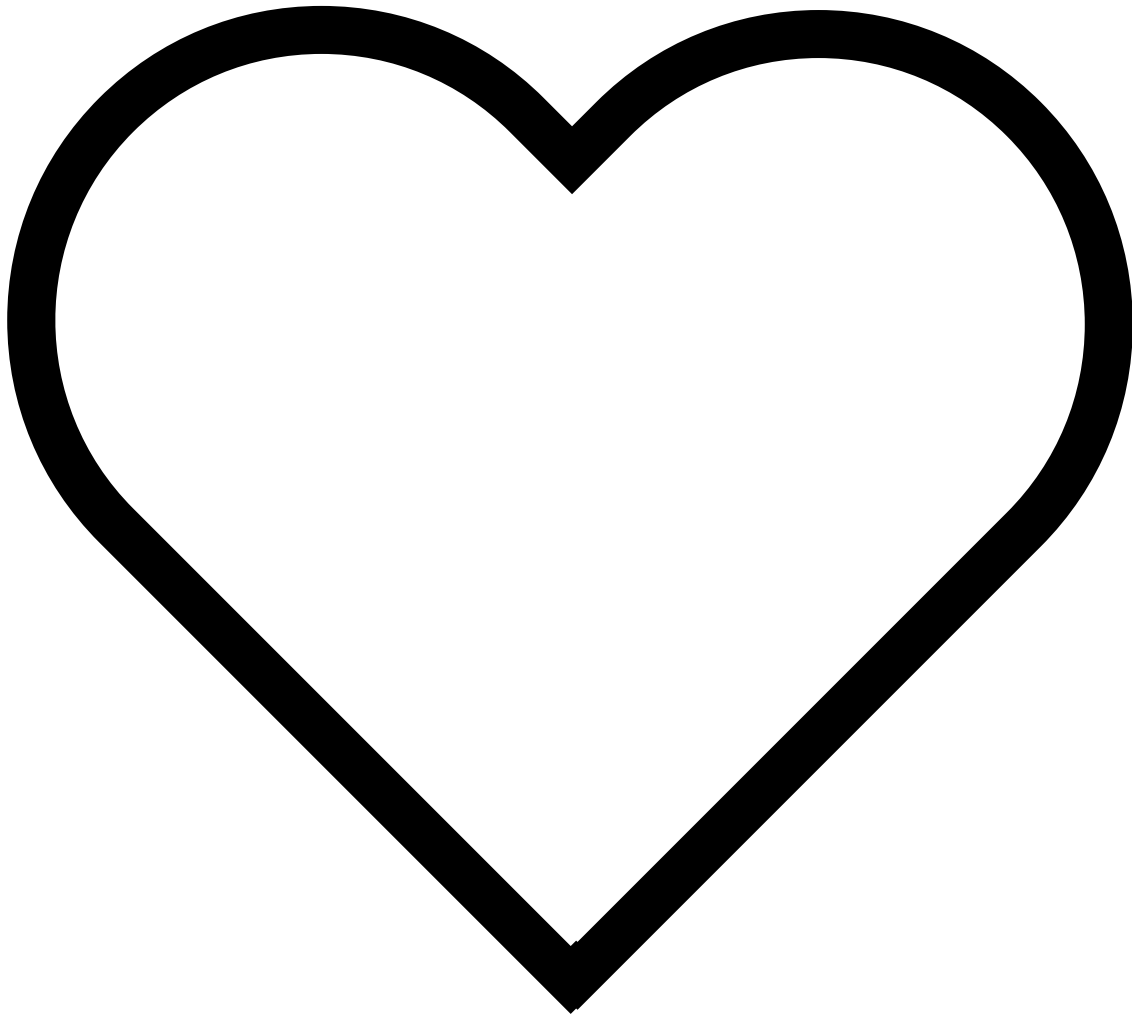
- When we lose someone we often refer to being broken-hearted to describe our grief and pain of loss. Over the last few months we have experienced grief as a result of the losses we have endured.
- Explore with the class some of the losses they may have experienced such as not being able to celebrate their First Holy Communion as planned, not going on holiday, not being able to spend time with family and friends, etc.
- The Bible reassures us that God is close to us when we are sad and grieving. God loves us and wants to help us.

Activity:

HEALING HEARTS

Using the heart template provided draw or write about a loss you have experienced because of the corona virus. When you are finished fold the heart over. On the outside write the following prayer:

We pray for all those who are broken hearted because of a loss they have suffered.
Please God heal the broken hearted and fill them with your love.
Help the to face the future with your great love in their hearts to keep them safe and strong.
Amen.





Friday – Catholic Schools: Communities of Hope

28 January 2021

‘May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit’ (Romans 15:13).

Consider:

- Hope keeps us looking forward to the good, beautiful, and happy things God wants to give us in this life, and even more in the life to come. Hope lifts our hearts with joyful expectation for what the future holds. Hope with faith, looks forward to even greater rewards to come.

Explore:

- Hope is an action, more than a feeling. We see what God is asking of us and we respond to that call. During this pandemic we saw many examples where people were moved into action. We saw communities come together to support one and other and celebrate together.
- Discuss with the class:
What are some of the kinds of things that you hope for?
What does the word hope mean to you? e.g. To look forward to something.
To be positive about what might happen.
- By expressing our gratitude to God for all that he has done for us, we place our hope in his love for us. This week we have learned that during times of trouble and stress, God is there for us to guide us and give us courage and strength to face whatever life throws at us.
- We are not expected to be grateful when life is tough but we are encouraged to remember the things we can be thankful for during those difficult times in our lives. This gives us hope.
- True thankfulness comes from knowing Jesus as our Saviour and experiencing God’s eternal love no matter what we face we can choose thankfulness because we have victory in Jesus Christ.

Activity 1:

Hold up a sheet of paper with a black/grey dot/smudge in the centre.

Ask the children what they see. (They will undoubtedly mention the smudge/dot first)

This paper is almost all white but you noticed the dark spot in the middle first. From time to time we are tempted to take for granted the things in our lives that we should be thankful for just like all the white on the page and instead we focus on the one dark bits like the things in life that are not going so well.

Perhaps there are things in your life that have are difficult things that make it hard to feel grateful. For a moment try and focus on something in your life that you are thankful for.

Even during this difficult time, while the virus is still in our country and affecting our lives we can find so much to be thankful for. Encourage the children to share some of their ideas.



Activity 2:

CREATE A THANKFUL WALL

Photocopy the template frame onto white card/paper.

Encourage each child to write/draw about an aspect of their life that they are grateful for.

I am thankful for ...

Thank you, God.

Display the finished work in an area of the classroom entitled the thankful wall. Encourage the children to remember their work during class prayertime.

