**Collective Worship Resources**

THINKING ABOUT VOCATIONS / OUR EVERYDAY GIFTS

**Opening Prayer**

Use a familiar opening prayer or call to worship that you might usually use OR

* [Call and response] God is good / all the time; all the time / God is good.
* [Chant while clicking fingers] God is good, God is powerful, God is with us now.

**Opening Question**

*Invite Children and staff to talk in pairs and then take a few answers*

* What are two skills you have? Can you name two things you are really good at?
* [You could even prep a teacher or two who can do something fun and interesting right there e.g. juggling, simple magic, singing, dancing].
* [Now is also a chance for you to demonstrate something impressive if you want to!]

**Song Suggestions**

Building Brick

* + [*https://youtu.be/-U3S8TrO5Ic*](https://youtu.be/-U3S8TrO5Ic) *for lyric video;*
  + [*https://youtu.be/4mhs2wYXV-E*](https://youtu.be/4mhs2wYXV-E) *for actions video;*
  + [*https://stjamesinthecity.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?id=192719*](https://stjamesinthecity.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?id=192719) *for chords and lyrics.*

Big Family of God

* + [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEvJzOxm6zs*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEvJzOxm6zs) *for lyric video;*
  + [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\_F5pr6gEkBU*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_F5pr6gEkBU) *for actions video.*

**Introducing the theme**

* God calls all of us to be part of working together with him and others to make the world better. He calls us all to serve him and by serving him, serve the world.
* Sometimes we think we can’t help – maybe because of our age, maybe we don’t think we have anything to offer, maybe we think our skin colour or sex or background means we can’t help out in God’s kingdom.
* An early follower of Jesus said this to people*: So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* [Gal. 3:26-28].
  + God says that if we believe in him we are his children and that it doesn’t matter about our background or sex or age – we are all one in Jesus so we can all help!
  + You could get three pairs up to represent these with signs or props as labels.

**Bible Story**

* Let’s have a story to illustrate this. While we have it, think about this question: who is important in this story?
* John 6:1-13 – Feeding of the 5000.
  + Plenty of books will have this story e.g. Lion Storyteller Bible, Rhyming Bible, Bible stories every child should know etc.
  + You may want to tell the story yourself.
* Ask the question of the children: who is important?
  + Obviously Jesus is!
  + BUT if the child had not shared his lunch, what might have happened? Would everyone have gone hungry? Get the children to share thoughts.
* That young boy was able to feed many because he offered Jesus the little that he had.
* There’s a simple phrase that might help us remember the point:
  + ‘God takes the little that we have and does amazing things with it’.
  + Get the children to repeat it together a few times, perhaps with simple actions.

**Reflection**

What is the little that you have and how could God use it? Take some time in silence to think and ask God to use what you have.

At the end of the reflection time, encourage the children to turn to the person next to them and remind each other that ‘God takes the little that we have and does amazing things with it’.

**Closing Prayer**  *Finish with a closing prayer or as you normally would*

**Intergenerational Worship Resources**

**for Everyday Gifting Sunday**

**Opening / Introduction**

No matter who or where you are, God is calling you. Jesus called his first disciples with the words, 'Follow me'. The same invitation is offered to each of us today. God calls all people into relationship and invites us to centre our lives on Christ. God calls each of us to use our gifts and talents in Christlike ways in the world around us.

Breath Prayer

**Opening Prayer**

Christ, you call us.

**Help us respond to your call.**

Christ, you call us to be your people in the world. We will follow your call to be our people: our hands will do your work, our feet will walk your way. Christ, you call us.

**Help us respond to your call.**

Christ, you call each one to be your child for the world. May our hearts search for your truth, may our souls listen for your voice, may our lives follow in your path. Christ, you call each one of us

**Help us respond to your call.**

Christ, you call us to be your people in the world

**We are the body of Christ.**

There are varieties of gifts,

**but the same spirit.**

There are varieties of service,

**but the same Lord.**

There are different kinds of working,

**but the same God is at work in all.**

There is one body, one Spirit, one hope in God’s call;

**one Lord, one faith, one baptism.**

There is one God, Father of all, over all and in all,

**to whom Christ ascended on high.**

And through his Spirit he gives us gifts:

**some are apostles, some are his prophets;**

Evangelists, pastors and teachers he gives us,

**So that we can minister together**

to build up his body,

**to be mature in the fullness of Christ.**

**Prayer of St Teresa**

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,

no hands but yours,

no feet but yours;

yours are the eyes through which to look at Christ’s compassion to the world,

yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good,

and yours are the hands, with which he is to bless us now.

St Teresa of Avila

**Suggested Bible Readings**

**Parable of the Talents**

Matthew 25:14-30

**Calling of Moses**

Exodus 3:1-14 & Exodus 4:1-4

**Stand Firm / Chosen**

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

**Community Examen based on Calling of Moses**

**Introduction**

The Examen is a spiritual practise created by priest and theologian St Ignatius of Loyola in the 16th century. It is a prayer of thankful reflection. A tool to walk through the recent past with God, noticing and naming God’s presence in joyful and difficult moments, and a way of asking God to help resolve how to live well in the future.

**Everyday Gifting Examen**

Our Community Examen is based around three questions found in the story of how God calls Moses at the burning bush, found in Exodus chapters 3 and 4.

1. Where do you stand? (Exodus 3:5)

This question enables us to see where God is in the present. Our response is thanksgiving.

2. What stops your serving God’s plan? (Exodus 3:11)

This question enables us to name our fears, anxieties, and the things we lament. Our response is to ask for peace.

3. What is in your hand? (Exodus 4:2)

This question enables us to look to the future in faith, knowing God is with and for us. Our response is to seek God’s blessing.

**Examen Practice**

Ask each question in turn, leaving space in between for personal reflection.

You may invite listeners to make notes.

You may invite listeners to share their answers in a pair or small groups.

1. Where do you stand?

Where have we seen God at work?

Where have we known God’s Presence?

What has been good?

Hold Silence

Share brief reflections

Call: We stand on Holy Ground

Response: Lord, we thank you.

2. What stops you serving God’s plan?

What is making us fearful?

What is making things difficult?

What risks are we seeing?

Hold Silence

Share brief reflections

Call: We are sent by God

Response: Lord, bring wisdom and peace

3. What is in your hand?

What are our God-given skills and talents?

What are we passionate about?

What has God already provided for us?

Hold Silence

Share brief reflections

Call: God is with and for us

Response: Lord, pour out your blessing.

Close in prayer.

**Feet, Hand, and Fly Prayers (Intergenerational Interactive Examen)**

**Introduction**

The Examen is a spiritual practise created by priest and theologian St Ignatius of Loyola in the 16th century. It is a prayer of thankful reflection. A tool to walk through the recent past with God, noticing and naming God’s presence in joyful and difficult moments, and a way of asking God to help resolve how to live well in the future.

**Everyday Gifting Examen**

Our Interactive Examen is based around three questions found in the story of how God calls Moses at the burning bush, found in Exodus chapters 3 and 4.

1. Where do you stand?

This question enables us to see where God is in the present. Our response is thanksgiving.

2. What is in your hand? (Exodus 4:2)

This question enables us to look to the future in faith, knowing God is with and for us. Our response is to seek God’s blessing.

3. Who will go for God? (Isaiah 6:8)

**Examen Practice**

Give each person a piece of paper and a pen or pencil.

Ask each question in turn, leaving plenty of space for creative response and conversation.

**01 | FEET**

Read Exodus 3:1-5.

Invite everyone to take off their shoes and draw around their feet on a piece of paper.

Ask, where do you stand?

Where have you seen God at work?

Where have you known God with you?

What has been good?

Invite everyone to write or draw their responses on the feet on their paper.

Invite everyone to share their response with a parent or friend.

Call: We stand on Holy Ground

Response: Lord, we thank you.

**02 | HANDS**

Read Exodus 4:1-5.

Invite everyone to turn over their paper and draw around their hands.

Ask, what is in your hand?

What are your God-given skills and talents?

What are you passionate about?

What has God given us?

Invite everyone to write or draw their responses on the hands on their paper.

Invite everyone to share their response with a parent or friend.

Call: God is with us

Response: Lord, we thank you.

**03 | FLY**

Explain, the same God who called Moses at the burning bush is calling each one of us today.

God is calling us to relationship.

God is calling us to use our God-given skills and talents to bless other people and the world.

Read Isaiah 6:8

Invite everyone to fold their paper into a paper aeroplane.

Ask, who shall I send? Who will go for God?

Invite everyone who wants to, to respond in prayer, by throwing their paper aeroplane

Flying with God into the world

**Intercessions**

Lord God and Father of all,

over all and in all and through all:

we give thanks that we are called to your service;

may all your people may be attentive and obedient to your calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be apostles, sent out to do your

work.

We pray for all who respond to this calling to serve in your name:

for those immersed in the world, seeking to bear witness to the gospel in word

and action,

for those whose service takes them to places where they face opposition and

difficulty,

may they be continually filled with your Spirit, and empowered to follow your calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be prophets.

We pray for all whom you have called to speak out and proclaim the values of your

kingdom:

for those who challenge injustice and apathy and untruth,

for those who campaign for the well-being of your people and your world

may they be continually filled with your vision, and have courage in their prophetic

calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be evangelists.

We pray for all whom you have called to share the message of your love:

for those who communicate the good news of Christ to others from a variety of

backgrounds,

for those whose enthusiasm and love conveys your truth,

may they be filled with your love as they share the good news with others.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be pastors.

We pray for all whom you have called to care for others through prayer and

through service:

for those who take care of any who are young or old, who are sick or struggling,

for those whose work supports medical, social and community services,

may their lives be channels of your love and grace.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be teachers.

We pray for all whom you have called to encourage adults and children to learn and

grow:

for those who teach informally as parents, mentors and facilitators,

for workers in schools, colleges and universities, and for those who teach in our

churches

may they speak your truth, and help others to grow in wisdom.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all,

you have called each of us to serve you

in your world and in your Church;

strengthen and equip us by your Spirit

to recognise your call to us,

and give us grace and courage to fulfil that calling.,

through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

**Poem - Fit me in Somewhere**

Fit me in somewhere

in this giant jigsaw, God,

somewhere in this work of art

you're working,

select a space my shape can fill

and with a puzzle maker's skill

let my contours find their fit without contortion.

Teach me which patch I am, God,

in the cosmic quilt you're quilting.

Show me where my square of selfhood is of use.

Let the colourful complexities

of the pattern that is me

find their purpose in the placement that you choose.

Show me my position, God,

in this group photograph.

Stand me where you want me to stand.

Put me next to who you will.

Make me stand, for good or ill,

precisely in the place your plan demands.

Tell me what I am, God,

in this body you are building;

a tongue to taste,

a nerve to serve,

an ear to hear.

Give me grace

to not be, gracefully,

the parts I am not called to be

and to play with elegance

the roles I'm given.

Fit me in somewhere

in this giant jigsaw, God,

somewhere in this work of art you're working.

Weave your wondrous tapestry

until the twisted, tangled threads of me,

surrendered to your artistry,

form an image that is beautiful to see.

From Spoken Worship, by Gerard Kelly

**Interactive Activity – Calling Wall**

**Scripture Reading**

Ephesians 2:19-22 (The Message)

*This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You’re no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He’s using us all—irrespective of how we got here—in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he’s using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day—a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home.*

**Small Group Conversations**

Calling emerges through prayer and in conversation with other Christians. Take a few minutes to chat and pray with the people around you. What is God calling you to?

These questions might help your conversations…

Do you have a calling within school life, the workplace or local community?

Do you have a calling in relationship to people, family, friends & neighbours?

Do you have a calling to serve the church community and equip it for mission?

**Create a ‘Calling Wall’**

Build a two-dimensional Calling Wall. Use post-it notes, stickers or pieces of paper as bricks.

Build a three-dimensional Calling Wall. Use giant Jenga blocks or Duplo as bricks.

1. Give each person a ‘brick’ (post-it, sticker, paper) and pen or pencil.
2. Invite each person to write down what God is calling them to on their brick.
3. Invite each person to add their brick to the Calling Wall. Stick post-its or stickers on a flipchart or display board (2D) or stick post-its on Jenga blocks or Duplo and build a 3D wall.
4. When the Calling Wall is built, you may want to re-read the Ephesians 2 passage together and/or reflect together on what God is building in your locality.

**Blessing**

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,

may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,

may the gifts of the Spirit equip you

to serve and worship God;

and the blessing …

Common Worship: Times and Seasons