**Class or home group devotions**

Class devotions will vary in format from teacher to teacher, but they play an integral part in class life. It is expected that students in primary schools will be involved in worship each day, whether this be a whole school worship, year level devotion or class devotion. Teachers are encouraged to create a worship space and altar for classroom devotions. On the altar there may be a cross, candles, a Bible (appropriate for the year level) or other objects to create a focus on the sacred space. The candles can be lit and extinguished to show the beginning and closing of class devotion time. Class devotions should take 10-15 mins.

Your school will have a number of resources for class devotions including devotion books appropriate for different year levels, a range of bibles from picture story Bibles to teenage study Bibles, song books and CDs, prayer books.

**Criteria for planning:**

* **Is God kept the subject?**
* **Does worship nurture participant’s character?**
* **Does it deepen the community?**

**Starting points**

**Bible verse or a Bible story**

* Select stories that will develop the concepts being developed in your Christian Studies units. The *LIFE curriculum* has an abundance of Bible references in each menu.
* Read different versions of the same story on different days to compare what can be learnt from the different ways the story is told, compare the illustrations, from whos’ perspective is the story retold…
* Tell the story using figures or pictures
* Dramatise the story or use reader’s theatre to share the story
* View the story in film, the Visual Bible, You tube clips of Bible stories, DVDs

**Ritual**

Students will find rituals around the class devotion time helpful and ritual can give meaning to the devotion time, eg a special space for devotions, the lighting of candles, music to create a worshipful atmosphere, opening of the Bible praying with hand folded and eyes closed)

**Artwork**

Google images, <http://www.artcyclopedia.com/> This site allows you to search by entering a name or key word from a Bible story. Google images also has a wealth of religious or secular artwork or images.)

Conduct an ‘I see, I think, I wonder…’ Explore the artist’s description of the artwork.

Students develop movies or slideshows for meditation, deep thinking or wondering about the mystery of God and our relationship with him.

**Picture books** (secular and Christian) to further develop Biblical and Christian concepts such as Old Turtle, Love you forever or to assist students to wonder about God, such as God’s names, God in the quiet things.

**Devotion books** Please choose carefully so that the devotions help students to connect Christianity to their lives without reducing it to moralising, eg Christians don’t….

**You tube or God tube** clips of songs, stories, church year celebrations eg <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nEtq28x5EQ&feature=related> (Hillsong for kids, has many clips such as Every move I make)

<http://www.max7.org> Is a great website with excellent clips of Bible stories such as The good Samaritan, the Bible for gamers

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXgH8ZIz9jQ&feature=related> Christmas in a nutshell

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4E76AuMPRGM&feature=related> Birth of Jesus Facebook style

**Multisensory experiences**

<http://ilc.org.au/ilc-2012-prayer-stations/> This Easter meditation provides a starting point for considering other themes that could be developed in multi-sensory ways.

**Australian Lutheran World Service**

This is the aid organisation of the Lutheran church. Each year they develop a pack of resources that has devotional material in it. <http://www.alws.org.au/index.php/discover-more/schools/awareness-stockpile>

**Stillness and silence**

All students will benefit from the opportunity to be still and silent. These are skills that will need to be taught. You will need to establish class guidelines for these times and start with small amounts of time, eg 2 mins and gradually build up the time. In these times you can conduct guided meditations or personal reflection and prayer time. You will need to suggest words or prayers that can be used in these times.

<http://www.cominghome.org.au/> This website provides a range of ideas and resources for teaching children Christian meditation.

<http://www.meditationwithchildren.com/> Another excellent website to teach children Christian meditation.

**Labyrinth**

<http://www.rejesus.co.uk/site/module/labyrinth/> An online Labyrinth experience for teachers or students

<http://www.labyrinth.org.uk/index.html> Information about Labyrinths and how they have been used.

<http://labyrinthsociety.org/labyrinths-in-places/3257-taking-the-labyrinth-experience-to-school-children> Experiences of ways schools have used Labyrinths.

**Student involvement in class devotions**

You will need to model for students what is important in class devotions through your teacher lead class devotions. It is helpful to provide some structure and access to appropriate resources for students to develop meaningful and stimulating worship for each other. You may consider:

* Develop worship orders appropriate for the year level which may be as simple as a song and prayer in the early years to a devotion proforma with different parts and elements in the older years. (example attached)
* Make available a range of Bibles, prayer books, song books, devotion books, worship orders
* Develop a worship box with a range of resources on different themes, pictures, artwork, stories, prayer forms (such as meditative prayer reflection to responsive prayers), different signs and symbols

Please discuss with your principal or mentor expectations in relation to school, class and staff worship.

**Your spiritual nurture**

**www.churchresources.info/pray/**

This is a site that provides a daily reflection on the gospel for the day a quiet space for meditation and a thought for the day. It also provides links to other websites with spiritual resources for adults and students.

**http://sacredspace.ie/**

Spend ten minutes praying as you sit at your computer, with the help of on-screen guidance and scripture chosen especially every day. I think this is a great way to start each day.

Rob Bell’s Nooma DVDs and books

<http://www.philipyancey.com/>

<http://www.maxlucado.com/>

Anne Dohnt