

1 What is Worship?

Based on Episode 1: Long Journey

Learning objectives:

- To explore the meaning of the word 'worship'
- To discuss 'hard choices' that can affect other people
- To respond to a Bible story imaginatively

RE Links:

England: 1e) Consider the meaning of a range of forms of religious expression.
2a) Reflect on what it means to belong to a faith community.
2e) Reflect on sources of inspiration in their own and others' lives.

Isle of Man: 4C) Prophets - standing for God.
5F) How do the beliefs of Christians influence their actions?
6E) What can we learn from Christian Religious Buildings?

Northern Ireland: The Revelation of God: God and the Bible.
The life of Jesus.
The Christian Church: Worship and prayer.

Scotland: Sacred writings, stories and key figures.
Sacred places, worship and symbols.

Wales: Features of religious buildings and the worship and celebrations which take place within the special places and within the home.
Ways in which religion can change people's lives and/or attitudes.

Stimulus material:

Friends and Heroes DVD episode 1: Long Journey

Bible references for the main stories:

Daniel Chapter 6
Luke 5:5-11

Other resources required:

A picture of someone that you (personally) admire
Copies of worksheet 1a and 1b

Introduction:

Invite pupils to close their eyes and imagine their bedrooms. Look around the walls, look on the shelves. What do you see? Are there pictures ... or models?

We sometimes like to surround ourselves with pictures or models of the sorts of people or creatures we admire as 'rôle-models', because we want to be like them in some way. You may wish to share a picture of one of your own 'rôle-models', explaining what it is about them that you personally find inspiring.

Activities:

Explain that this episode of the DVD looks at key moments in the lives of two people from the Bible who each had their own rôle-models.

Watch episode 1 to the moment after King Darius has issued his decree.

On the board, write the question 'What is Worship?' Take some suggestions and add them on the board. In the discussion emphasise that worship is about placing someone or something at the very centre of our lives. It guides the way we think, the way we speak, and the things we do. Daniel's faith made him the man he was, it guided all his decisions, and made him a very good government minister. But his enemies forced him to choose – should he obey a new law making it illegal to worship anyone else but the King? Would he dare to be different?

Pupils use Worksheet 1a to record their ideas about Daniel's dilemma. Discuss some answers, then show the rest of the Daniel story.

Ask the pupils What effect did Daniel's choice have on the rest of the Kingdom? (People could worship freely again.)

Somebody else faced a hard choice. But this time, instead of deciding whether to say 'No' to something, he had to decide whether to say 'Yes'.

Show rest of episode 1.

Invite the pupils to imagine they were there when Peter met Jesus; perhaps they were a member of Peter's crew. What would they have noticed most? Pupils use Worksheet 1b, colour-coding the text. (SEN could discuss this together, with an enlarged copy.)

Reflection / Personal search / Response:

On sheets of paper, in groups, pupils list everything they know about Jesus, and then agree the five most important things. Display the pupils' lists. Ask the pupils why 2000 years after his life on Earth, do they think millions of intelligent people still worship Jesus?

Assessment / reporting:

Did pupils empathise with Daniel or Peter and give thoughtful responses?

Name:

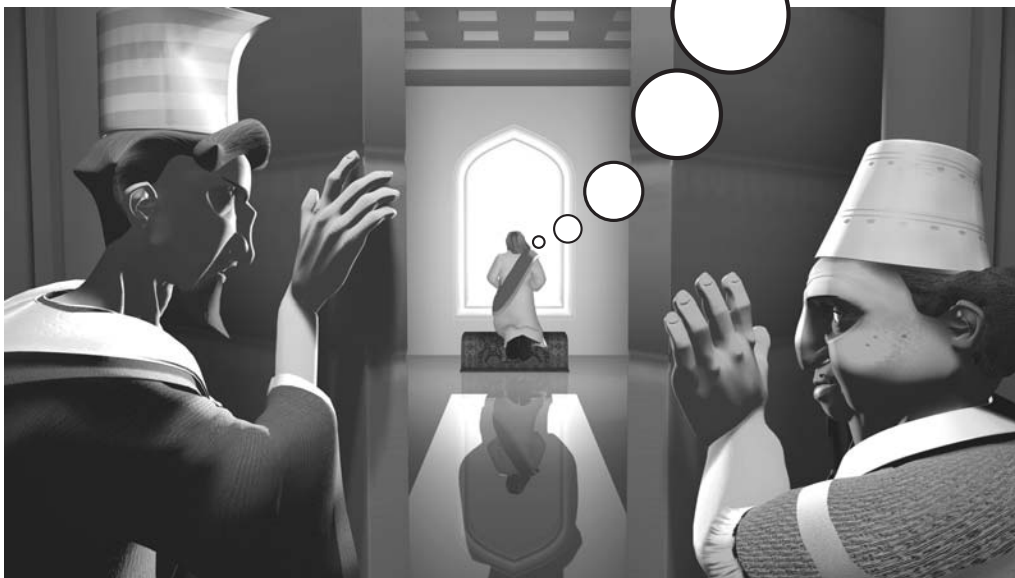
Date:

What is Worship? 1a

“You must only worship King Darius!”

Daniel is a very important man, who has always served King Darius well. He is deciding what to do about this new law. What could he do? What should he do? What questions would he have for God?

Write his thoughts and questions in the speech bubbles above the picture.



To think about:

How is Daniel's decision going to affect the lives of other people?

Can you think of a time when you were forced to make a hard choice that affected other people?

Name:

Date:

What is Worship? 1b

Remembering the day.

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

"Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

When Simon Peter realised what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm too much of a sinner to be around you." For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Luke 5:1-11 New Living Translation

Imagine you saw this happening. Use a colour-scheme to highlight all the things that you might have noticed with your five senses.

See

Hear

Smell

Taste

Touch

Underline the ones that might have given the strongest sense-impressions for you.

Why do you think Simon Peter asked Jesus to go away?

What would your response have been if you were on the boat?
