

3. Beginning....

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we are focussing on creativity, and the content of an exhibition being hosted in Surrey this term: **Threads Through the Cross**, the work of textile artist Jacqui Parkinson. We are mindful that relatively few schools will be visiting the exhibition, so are bringing it right into your collective worship in a variety of different ways. Whilst it might seem strange to be focussing on the salvation story at this point in the school year, we hope that the endpoint of Advent and Christmas will be more meaningful having understood the journey to the Cross. We will also be linking to many 'Autumn term' themes that are a natural part of school life as children settle in to a new term, getting familiar with routines, school values and key events. **As we begin using Jacqui Parkinson's work, we think about the 'Beginning' of this epic story, which begins where we left the Creation last week. We focus on how important 'beginnings' are to help us understand stories, and how we all experience beginnings of different types. We also think about how the beginning in the Garden of Eden went wrong, God's covenant relationship with people and with Creation is damaged, and explore things that seem 'broken' in our world. There are opportunities to reflect and ask some wondering questions throughout the story script as well as in the usual place.**



How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Each week, there will be a single word that will draw our focus to one particular aspect of either the textile panel or the story linked with it. You should easily be able to link the word to your school's values, but there will also be some suggestions included in the reflective questions as part of each week's materials. This week, as we think about **beginnings**, we will think about how God's perfect world was broken by Adam and Eve's disobedience, and reflecting on the things that seem 'broken' to us in our world.

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation. There are slides to go with today's script, but you could quite easily use some of this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred.
- **You will need to.... Find a large world map or globe and some cheap First Aid plasters. If you have particular stories that are more familiar to your school community than the ones on slide 2, then replace these.**
- We introduce pupils to the work of textile artist Jacqui Parkinson, through her Threads Through Creation sequence of panels. You can find out more about her work here: <https://www.jacqui-textile.com/> You can also see some photos of her at work, which pupils might find interesting, here: <https://www.jacqui-textile.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Behind-the-scenes-of-Threads-through-Creation-January-2023.pdf>
- **There are also some ideas for reflective activities / ideas to ponder for use in your reflective areas for this term, listed at the end of the script along with a handy wall chart to print each week for your reflective area. You can find all these as a separate file in our resources area, which may make it easier for teachers to print and use in their classrooms.**
- **Reflective prayer activity:** Our world is broken.... Write / draw a thought/prayer on a plaster and stick it onto the world map/globe. You might like to include these in your class reflections during the week.

Gathering:

Slide 1: Use the new greeting that you taught last week....



Leader: We are a creative community. As we gather together today....

ALL: May our thinking, talking and wondering help us to grow.

Here are BSL actions for some of the words:

Leader's words:

Creative: <https://www.signdictionary.co.uk/view/creative?q=creative#title>

Community: (we use the word 'gathering' as it's a simpler sign!) <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/gathering>

Gather: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/gather> (1st video), or use the same sign we use for community as they approximate to the same thing!

Response:

Think: <https://www.brightbsl.co.uk/signs/think>

Talk: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/talk> (1st video)

Wonder: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/wonder> (1st video)

Grow: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/grow> (2nd video)



Engaging:



- **Slide 2:** At the beginning of our time together today, we are going to think about Beginnings! We heard the words 'In the beginning' at the start of our story last week, and today, we are going to use some more words of beginning to help us to think.... I wonder if you know which stories *these* words are the beginning of?....Talk together with a partner and then we'll see if you're right...

A mouse took a stroll through a deep dark wood. A fox saw the mouse and the mouse looked good...

THE GRUFFALO

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away... STAR WARS

The sun did not shine, it was too wet to play. So we sat in the house all that cold, cold, wet day...

THE CAT IN THE HAT (Dr. Seuss)

I wonder what other story beginnings you can remember? *[ask for some other examples]*

- **Slide 3:** Beginnings are important.
The *beginnings* of stories are words that we remember!
Beginnings often help us to understand a story better.
We are *beginning* a new term, and a new school year.
Some of you are *beginning* at our school.
[Most of] You are *beginning* in a new class with a new teacher.
We are *beginning* a whole new series in our times together in collective worship.
Beginnings are important.
- **Slide 4: Creativity** Last week, we thought about this big word that will be a common theme for the rest of this term, as we continue to use the work of textile artist Jacqui Parkinson.
Next week we will begin looking at the work from her new exhibition, but in order for us to fully understand it, we need to return to last week's story of beginnings, when 'God made....'
- **Slide 5:** Do you remember the words that God spoke *after* he'd made?..... He said '**That's good!**' He looked at the world that he had created and was pleased. I'm sure that most of us can identify with how it feels to be pleased with the things we have made! God gave the world to Adam and Eve and told them that it was their job to look after it, to care for it and help it to flourish. The world he had made was perfect, and in the very middle of it, God planted the most beautiful garden. God called it Eden. It was the perfect place.
- **Slide 6:** In the middle of the garden, God had planted two special trees.
One was the tree of life – you can see it, **here**, with the golden spiral, and the red fruit.
The second tree had a very big name: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. You can see it **here**, with the blue fruit. Can you see what the red spiral is?.... *[it's a snake]*
God shared the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve – and he told them they could eat any seed or fruit from the garden EXCEPT for the fruit of these two special trees. It would not be good for them!
....I wonder what Adam and Eve might have thought about God's instructions?.... *[you might want to allow children some time to talk together about this]*
- **Slide 7:** Unfortunately, God's enemy, Satan, was in the garden in the form of a snake and he whispered to the people that it wouldn't matter if they disobeyed God, that if they ate the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, then they would be like God and know everything.... Well, that was too great a temptation for them, and as you can see here, they took the fruit and ate it.
....I wonder how Adam and Eve feel now?....*[you might want to allow children some time to talk together about this]*
Immediately they did this, they knew that they had done wrong and hid from God amongst the trees, ashamed of their actions. When God walked in the garden in the cool of the day, looking for his friends Adam and Eve, they were nowhere to be found, so he called their names until they came out from where they had been hiding. They each blamed each other and the snake.....



....I wonder how God might feel about what's happened?....[you might want to allow children some time to talk together about this]

- **Slide 8:** The story tells us that God was very disappointed and that he sent Adam and Eve away from the perfect Garden, because things could no longer be perfect. Because Adam and Eve had listened to the snake, Sin had come into the world and spoiled it. Life in the world would be hard work now, and Adam and Eve would not be able to live with God in the perfect Garden. God closed the Garden so that no one would ever be able to eat from the special trees again. It seems that *this* beginning has gone all wrong.... Spend a few moments really looking at this part of Jacqui's work now.....

....I wonder how you feel as you look at what's happening?.... [you might want to allow children some time to talk together about this]

....I wonder how Adam and Eve feel now?....[you might want to allow children some time to talk together about this]

For Christians, this is the saddest moment in the whole story, as the whole of Creation is affected by what happened. God's perfect world is broken....

Slide 9: Responding and words for worship

....I wonder what you think about this idea?....

....when you look at the world, I wonder if you agree that it is 'broken'?....

....I wonder how we should act now?....

[you might want to allow some time for discussion here as well]

These are things that we will take into our classrooms this week as we continue to think about our responsibilities as human beings for the world around us.... which includes the way that we treat each other. We can all make a difference in caring for a world that is still beautiful and amazing, but fragile.....and as we'll find out next week, for Christians, the story doesn't end with this broken beginning.....

Opportunity for reflection / prayer

I'm going to pray now. If this is something that you feel comfortable doing, then there will be some words for us to share together. In this prayer, we will make promises to care. Here are the words....

Slide 10: 'We will show we care.'

So, let's pray together. If you don't want to pray, then use the quiet to be still with your own thoughts.

Slide 11: In the world that is our home....

Slide 12: 'We will show we care.'

Slide 13: For the places that feel broken....

Slide 14: 'We will show we care.'

Slide 15: In the friendships that we cherish....

Slide 16: 'We will show we care.'

Slide 17: For all that is beautiful in our world....

Slide 18: 'We will show we care.'

Slide 19: Amen.

Sending: Slide 20 (NB note different word from last week!)

Leader: As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...

All: Together, we create a caring community!

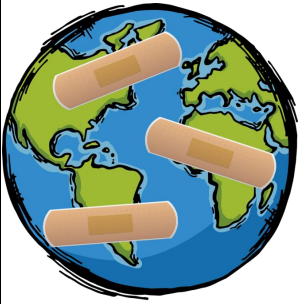
BSL Together: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/together> (1st video); Caring: <https://www.signbsl.com/sign/care>
You already have signs for 'community'

To listen to / sing:

[One world](#) (NBD) or [Chain of love](#) (BBC)



Slide 21: Reflective areas



Think: What do you feel is 'broken' in our world?

Talk: Talk together with others about your ideas – do you all have the same? Why do you think this is?!

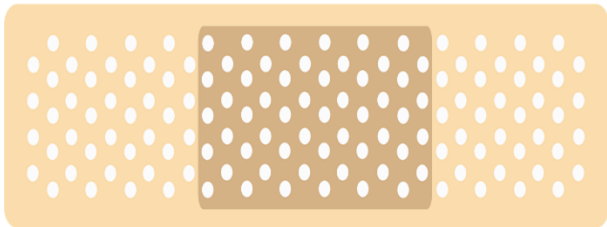
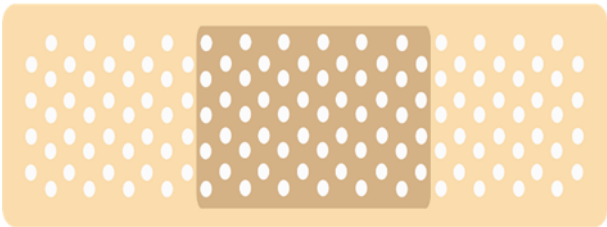
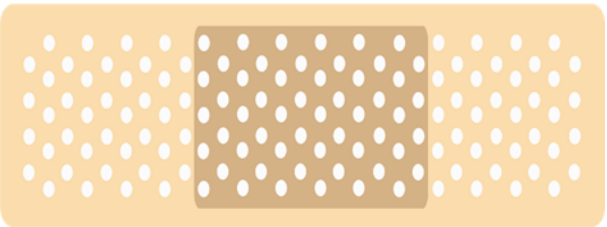
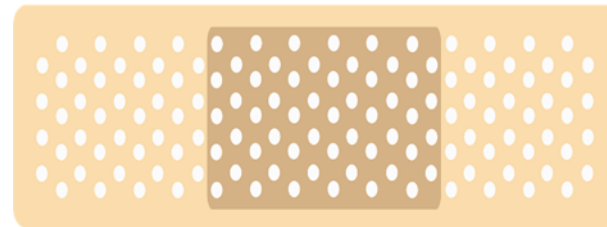
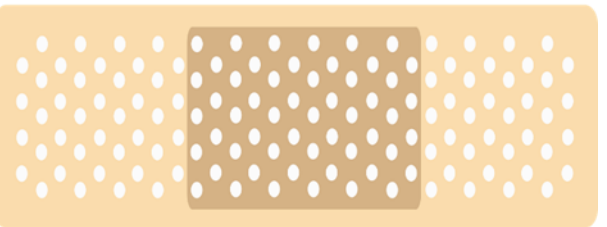
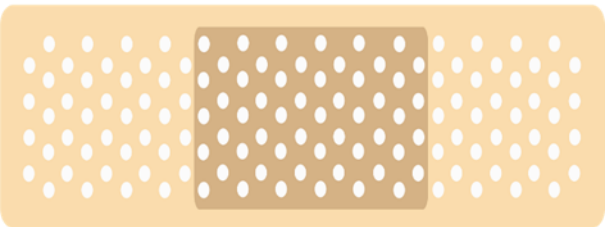
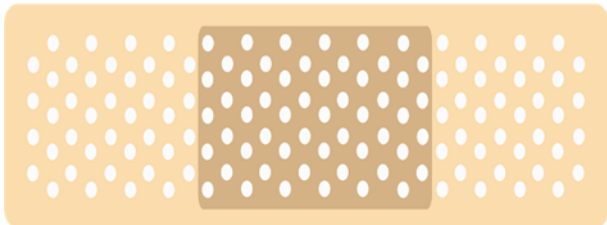
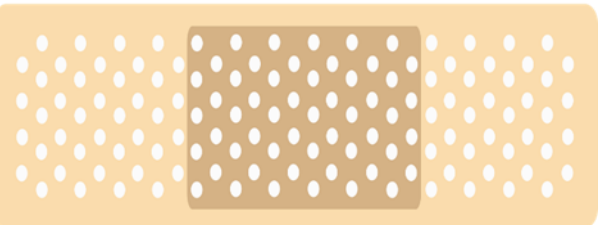
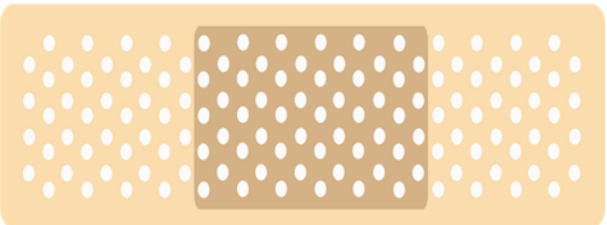
Do: Take a plaster.

Write or draw on it your idea, or a thought / prayer about what you'd like to see 'fixed'.

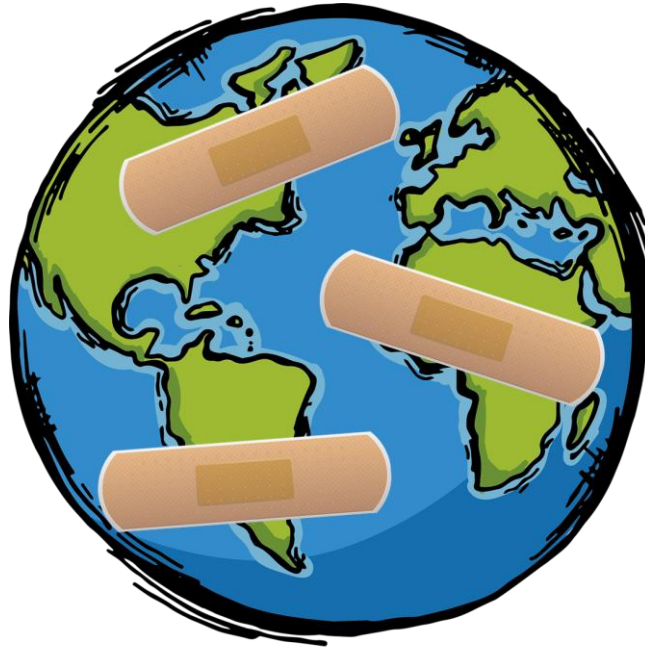
Then stick it onto the world map or globe.



Print these onto small cards and cut out:

Draw or write your prayer or hope for the world on a sticking plaster shape. 	Draw or write your prayer or hope for the world on a sticking plaster shape. 	Draw or write your prayer or hope for the world on a sticking plaster shape. 
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Broken.....



What do you feel is 'broken' in our world?



Talk together with others about your ideas – do you all have the same? Why do you think this is?!



Take a plaster.

Write or draw on it your idea, or a thought / prayer about what you'd like to see 'fixed'.

Then stick it onto the world map or globe.

