

11-14 A E D

S S H C M

C

God created the world using only a blank canvas – what sort of things did God have to consider?

Activity

A Leap Of Faith. From a standing start, see who can jump the furthest.

Discussion

Sir Edmund Hillary climbed Mount Everest – but he couldn't have done it without sherpa Tenzing Norgay (and the other 398 people on the expedition!). Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon – but he couldn't have done it without the others in his crew and many

scientists who prepared and ran the mission from NASA – including Katherine Johnson (look her up on Wikipedia).

We often need people with special skills to help us achieve things. Look at the 12 disciples that Jesus called to help him on his adventure... what special skills/gifts did they have?

Compass prayers

Praying for the local community

Young people can take it in turns to be the 'compass'. Standing in the middle of the room, they can choose a place in the local area (such

as school, community centre, GP surgery), point in the direction it is in and say a simple prayer or ask a leader to say a prayer for their chosen venue. The rest of the group can stand in the direction the 'compass' is pointing, and join in with 'Amen'.

B

Peter had to put his fears behind him when stepping out of the boat and onto the waves. Refugees have to be brave when they leave behind everything they have known and flee to safety.

Activity

Using a map of the world, chart the journey of a refugee from Afghanistan to the United Kingdom.

Discussion

What obstacles do they face? Why do they feel the need to leave? Why do you think they might want to come to the UK? Joseph, Mary and Jesus had to flee from their home (Matthew 2:13-23) Do you think they were accepted in Egypt? Do you think we treat refugees fairly in the UK?

You can find out more about refugees coming to the UK here: Refugee Voices – Refugee Action (refugee-action.org.uk)

Reflective prayers

Praying for myself

Encourage the young people to find a comfortable position – sitting, lying down or standing – so that they can be still. You could use some quiet music. Use a spoken prayer, such as the one below, allowing space for the group to reflect and bring to God any situations that they may be feeling worried about.





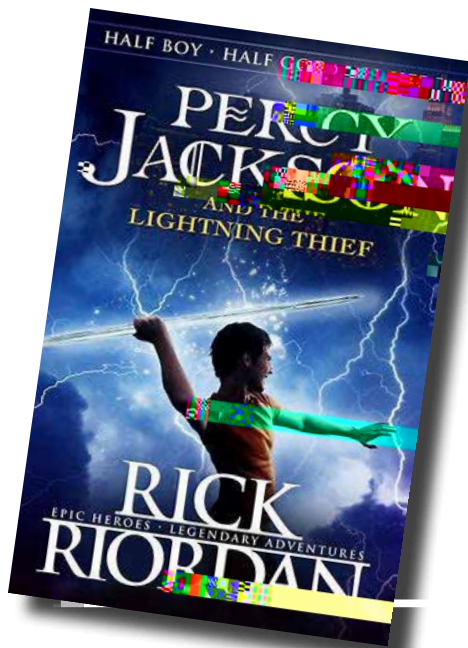
Discussion

Mary accepted the news that she was to have God's child, saying to the Angel Gabriel: "I



If there is an issue that the young people are particularly concerned or passionate about? Perhaps you could help them to draft a letter to Church leaders asking them to consider supporting a campaign or speaking out about an issue. Alternatively, the young people could contact a local councillor or MP about an issue of equality or justice which concerns them.

Rather than pursuing this for all of the themes, it may be more useful to develop their ideas over a few days to help the group express their concerns for one particular issue.



Explore the theme through a movie

Percy Jackson: not all love stories look the same!

Why not try using *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* to look at the theme from a different angle. Watch sections of the film, read excerpts from the book or discuss the characters and their relationships.

Group discussion

As a group talk about whether anyone has seen the film or read the book, then ask questions so that those who have can share information with those who haven't.

Who are the characters? **Where** is it set? **What** happens? **How** is it resolved?

Relationships

Using big paper, explore the relationships Percy has with different people in the book (his mother, father, teachers and friends) and discuss how love is different in different relationships. How are our relationships similar to his and how aren't they? How is our relationship with God unique and how is it similar to our relationships with others?

Themes

Using the daily theme, think about characters that help Percy to be creative, brave and adventurous. Who shows him he belongs and who surprises him?

Who helps us to be more confident in ourselves? Who helps us to find out more about God and how much God values us?

