



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP TO AID RECOVERY



Collective Worship is an important part of the week in all schools for drawing together as a community, receiving encouragement, for learning together from the Bible's wisdom, and for being able to pray and reflect corporately. It therefore makes sense to bring the recovery journey into our Collective Worship cycle. Below is an outline for an initial act of Collective Worship which you could use and adapt as suits your school community. It might be that for you, rather than one, stand-alone Collective Worship, that you make 'Recovery' the theme of several sessions together. You could take more time to unpack the three strands of:

- Remember
- Reflect
- Recuperate

If doing this, you might find some of the information on the 'PHSE ideas' and 'Prayer Spaces' pages might be helpful.

WELCOME

If you are online, have a quick question for classes to discuss (on mute) so that they are engaged as they wait for others to arrive online. For example: what has been the best thing about returning to school? What are you looking forward to in the months ahead? If you are meeting physically but in bubbles, then put the question on the screen and play some well chosen entry music.

OPENING WORDS

Start the assembly with an opening prayer, and maybe a Bible verse from the reading. Explain that your theme for today is 'Recovery' and that you will think about it in three ways: Remember, Reflect and Recuperate.

READING

Have two voices reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and 15, alternating phrases. You could also put together some pictures to show along with the reading. Alternatively, make use of the this animation of it on [YouTube](#).

TALK

Give a short talk in which you may like to make the following points:

1. Explain that this season in life is time to recover, and it will involve doing many of the things mentioned in the reading. Ask people to tell you which of the things they

heard might be appropriate for now? (Have the reading visible on a screen.)

2. Remind everyone that Christians believe that God knows everything that we have been through, that he knows exactly how things are for us now, both good and bad. Christians also believe that he also knows what we will face in the coming weeks. Verse 15, which reads so strangely, suggests that nothing about the past, present or future is out of God's sight. The Bible gives hope that God will give healing for the past as we 'Remember', comfort for the present as we 'Reflect' and hope for the future as we 'Recuperate' (you may need to explain that this means 'to get well/strong again' e.g. recuperating from an operation)
3. Remind everyone that Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd, and said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28) Christians are grateful to be able to tell Jesus about everything, day or night, always. As they get to know him, they discover that he helps them with everything they face. Invite people to say, or write in chat if online, ways in which God has helped them during the pandemic.
4. Jesus also said to his friends 'Come, follow me.' We don't know what the future holds, but the Bible invites us to follow Jesus into it. It teaches that God wants us to experience and show and share his great love. Tell a local story about good things that God is doing in your community. Then speak of your own hopes for the future as you and the school community follow God into the future.

SONG

Sing (if allowed?) or listen to a quiet, meditative song, to lead you into the prayers. Primary schools might use *I love you* by Duug Horley ([recorded here](#) with actions that could be used to support/instead of singing). Secondary pupils might respond better to Stuart Townend's *There is a Hope* (performed [here](#) and explained [here](#) - skip to 1min 38 for discussion of the lyrics about hope). You could consider praying over the top of the instrumental introduction.



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PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PASS ON TO OTHERS

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PRAYERS

Invite pupils and staff to respond with hand actions as suggested as you pray together and to join in with the liturgy or, if they feel more comfortable, to take the quiet to ponder for themselves the themes covered in the prayers.

You may like to clasp your own hands together
Loving God, as we remember these past months, we remember all the sad things. All the people who have died. All the things we have missed. All the difficult days.

Invite people in their heads to name the people and things that they are grieving.

We give all these people and things to you now.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You may like to open out your hands

Loving God, as we remember, we give thanks for all the good things, all the happy times, all the things that went well.

Invite people to name these to God in their heads, or to reflect quietly upon what these things are.

We thank you for all these things and people now.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Invite people to put their hands over their faces. (You cannot do this completely or they will not hear your voice clearly.)

Loving God, as we reflect, there are many things we want to say sorry for: all the unkind things, all the thoughtless things, all the times we have turned away from each other and from you.

Invite people to say sorry in their heads in the quietness or to reflect on who they need to apologise to.

Thank you that you always forgive us and love us.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Put your thumbs up

Loving God, as we reflect, we realise we want to do some things differently as life opens up again. We have re-discovered the things that are most important to us.

Invite people to name in their heads what they might do differently.

Please help us to stick to these changes.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Hold your hands high

Loving God, as we pray for recovery, we think of all that we want to do to help us be refreshed and strong to follow you into the future.

Invite people to fill us with your hope.

Lord, in your mercname in their heads what they will do to be refreshed and encouraged.

Thank you that you y

hear our prayer.

BLESSING AND END

