**Showing Grace**

**Key Stage 2 – Reflection 1**

The reflection builds on the whole school collective worship on Grace and shows children how offering grace to others isn’t always easy but is important if we want to be the best person that we can.

*You will need the associated Powerpoint.*

**Slide 1:** Re-cap the whole school collective worship on grace, reminding children what grace means (showing kindness and forgiveness to people even when it might seem like they don’t deserve it). Recap the story of St Paul to remind the children why this is so important as a Christian. A more ‘sophisticated’ version of the pictures than was used for the whole school collective worship is set out in the PowerPoint and you could use the text below.

**Slide 2:** Saul was an angry and vengeful man who was a ringleader in the persecution and murder of many Christians.

**Slide 3:** Because of these persecutions in Jerusalem, many of the Christians left to find new places to live. Some travelled north to the city of Damascus.

**Slide 4:** This is a map of where Damascus is in relation to Jerusalem.

**Slide 5:** Saul received orders from the High Priest to go to Damascus and carry on persecuting the Christians who had tried to get away.

**Slide 6:** As he got near to Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed all around Saul and he fell to the ground. He heard a voice: ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’

**Slide 7:** ‘Who are you, Lord?’ Saul asked. ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the voice replied. ‘Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’

**Slide 8:** The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless. They heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up, but when he opened his eyes, he couldn’t see anything.

**Slide 9:** So they led Saul by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

**Slide 10:** In Damascus, there was a Christian named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision and told him to go and find Saul and when he placed his hands on him, he would be able to see again.

**Slide 11:** Ananias didn’t want to go anywhere near Saul because he knew what a terrible man he was. But the Lord told Ananias that he must go to Saul because he had chosen Saul to carry his message to all people.

**Slide 12:** So Ananias obediently went to the house where Saul was and placed his hands on him. ‘Brother Saul, Jesus-- who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately, Saul was able to see again.

**Slide 13:** Saul was immediately baptised as a Christian and spent several days with the disciples in Damascus – the very people he had come to arrest. Saul changed his name to Paul as a sign that he had started a new life.

**Slide 14:** Paul began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God and that he had been saved through God’s grace so that he could start a new life. Many adventures happened to Paul after this, which you can read more about in the book of the Bible called ‘The Acts of the Apostles’.

**Slide 15:** It’s a common theme in movies that the hero shows grace toward the villain when they have done nothing to deserve it and this helps the villain to begin to become a better person. Children might remember this scene in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows where Harry goes back to rescue Drako (they might enjoy being reminded of Ron’s line, ‘If we die saving them, Harry, I’m going to kill you!’)

**Slide 16:** Here is another example from the film Toy Story 3. Lotso (the purple bear) is very unkind and doesn’t show grace to anyone. Because of him, all of the toys end up in a garbage incinerator. But Woody and Buzz still show grace to him and try to save him. Was that the right thing to do?Can anyone remember what happens after that?

**Slide 17:** Lotso hasn’t learned from the grace that he has been shown and still betrays the other toys. Does this mean that Woody and Buzz were wrong to have shown grace to Lotso after he betrayed them the first time? This should provoke interesting reflections from the children.

**Slide 18:** Paul knew that he had done terrible things to people over and over again but God still spoke to him in a blinding light and told him that he could be saved. Paul believed that if God had shown him this much grace, then we should always show grace to other people.

In the first collective worship, children were asked to decide on one thing that they could do in the week ahead to change the world through grace. You might like to discuss this with them.

**Slide 14:** End with the closing prayer from the first collective worship (Christians often call this prayer ‘The Grace’).