**Hope Collective Worship – Teacher guidance**

**For this worship you will need a sheet attached to two wooden poles to make a stretcher. Sufficient stones/pebbles for the number of children and adults in the worship.**

**Place the stretcher and the stones at the front of the room to provoke the interest of the children.**

**Gathering**

**Slide 1**

Worship begins with music (Cornerstone by Hillsong, YouTube link on slide) as children come to join worship. Welcome the children to worship and remind them of the special time that is beginning. Begin the worship by lighting a candle and following the school’s usual gathering routine.

**Slide 2**

**Engaging**

Explain to children that today we are going to be developing our understanding of Christian Hope – if this is one of your school values then remind the children of this.

Ask the children to talk to someone next to them about Hope and what they think Hope means.

What does it mean to hope in something? Can they think of a time that they were hopeful about something? What was it? Listen to feedback – possible answers may include ‘hope is really wanting something or a list of wishes for the future. Explain to children that in the Bible Hope is much more than just a wish list. Hope is about being able to be confident in what God’s promises about the future.

**Slide 3**

Explain that there are lots of stories in the Bible that talk about Hope and today we are going to look at one of these. Point out the stretcher at the front and display the picture of Jesus healing the paralysed man and ask children if they know the Bible story we are looking at today.

Share with children the story of Jesus healing the paralysed man with children helping to act it out using the wooden planks and sheet. There are many versions online or use a Bible storybook/Bible. **Emphasize throughout the story the Hope that the friends had in Jesus. Despite how difficult it was to get the man into the house, they were confident that if they could just get their friend to Jesus, then Jesus would heal him.**

Ask the children - Who is hopeful in the Bible story? What are they hopeful for? Allow children time to think through the different characters in the story – the friends, the man, Jesus, the crowd. Do you think that their hopes line up with God’s hopes? Allow time to feedback to describe and explain some of the hopes.

**Responding**

**Slide 4**

Explain to the children that we are going to think about how this story from the Bible can help us in our lives, our school and our families today. We are going to focus on the hope the friends had for the paralysed man and try to be like them.

Explain to the children that they are going to be invited to pray now and that when we pray, we are lining up our hopes with God’s hopes. Our prayers are going to begin with thinking in our heads. Ask children to think of a friend. When they have thought of a friend, come and gently collect a special stone from the front.

Explain to the children that we are going to be like the friends in the story and think of a hope that we have for that friend. Give some examples of hopes that we may have for a friend. When you have thought of a hope for that friend, come and place it on the mat and we will pray to take all the prayers of hope to God, knowing that he is certain to help us.

**Ask 4 children to help carry the stretcher of stones and lay it carefully in front of the worship table or cross at the front of the room as a physical carrying of the prayers to God.**

**Slide 5**

Say the prayer and invite children to make their own prayer. You may close to follow the following the ‘thank you, sorry, please’ structure if the children are used to it.

**Sending**

**Slide 6**

How will the hope that you have now change the way you act today? How can you be like one of the friends in the story and do something special to act on your hope? Explain to the children that the special stones will be placed in the prayer corner in their classrooms this week and when they have done something to help a friend to act on their hope, they can take their stone and tell one of the adults in the class about it.