**Love Collective Worship – Teacher guidance**

**Gathering**

**Slide 1**

Worship begins with music https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE This Christian worship song is about God’s unconditional love for humanity. It uses the analogy of the lost sheep to describe the Christian belief that God loves everyone so much, that he will come and find us. **Tell the children that you want them to pay particular attention to the words as you are going to be coming back to this.** Begin the worship by lighting a candle and following the school’s usual gathering routine.

**Engaging**

**Slide 2**

Reflect with the children on the questions in the slide. Hopefully they will generate some interesting responses (especially if Love is one of your school values). Hopefully, the conversation will arrive at the conclusion that the cross symbolises God’s love.

**Slide 3**

The song that we listened to at the beginning talked about ‘the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God’ (you could repeat some of the song at this point if some of the children missed it as they gathered).

It seems unusual to think of God’s love as being ‘reckless’ but we are going to think about the story that Jesus told which the song is based on. Now tell the story of **The Lost Sheep** (Matthew 18: 10–14). You can simply tell the story in your own words or act it out with some children or there several YouTube versions, depending on the tone you want to strike. Here are just a few:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smvcsgMv6Dw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=094upaf4BME>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXLt3JjdmgI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Ry2MaMyvGo>

**Slide 4**

Explore with the children that perhaps the song we listened to at the beginning (based on the story of the Lost Sheep) talks about God’s ‘reckless love’ because the story shows how God won’t even think about his own safety and will stop at nothing to rescue someone who needs his help and this is what Jesus came to show us with his own life.

**Responding**

**Slide 5**

Ask the children:

If this is how much God loves us, how should we feel about ourselves?

If every person is so important to God, how should we behave towards each other?

**Slide 6**

Say the prayer or you may choose to ask some children to lead a prayer following the ‘thank you, sorry, please’ structure if the children are used to it.

**Sending**

**Slide 7**

Read the slide and ask the children to take a moment to reflect on the question.

How will the love that that God has for you change the way you act today?

How can you do something special so that someone else might know that they are loved?