



# What does it feel like to be in collective worship?

Faith in the Nexus – Animation & Discussion on Collective Worship & Church  
Questions for discussion for children, parents, schools & churches

## How to watch and discuss

When you use this animation as a stimulus for discussion, be aware that there are opportunities for people to disclose in a personal way that may require some care and sensitivity. How you introduce the animation will depend on your gauging how well the group knows each other and the extent to which they are likely to trust each other.

Watch the animation first (in class, as a group of parents, in a school INSET session or church group) without any comment. Then watch it again, asking the group to note down the children's words that seem particularly important to them. You may suggest they first make a word cloud on their own, or, if you do the exercise as a group, a mind map may help explore the deeper meanings of the words in a free discussion. Use the following questions to explore these words.

For each group, a pair of Year 5/6 children's quotes from the animation introduces the topic, followed by questions (or a task) relevant to each of the audiences – children, parents & school/church.

Scan or tap to watch  
the animation  
[bit.ly/nexus-004](https://bit.ly/nexus-004)



## 1. What does it feel like to be in collective worship?

*“Assemblies are not making you do something that you don't want to do; they're including everyone, whether they're Christian or not.”*

*“We have collective worship in the hall and class. We're always talking about God and how he helps people. It makes me think about how much people appreciate him for all he's done.”*

## Children

- a. What's the difference between worship in assembly and praying on your own?
- b. Which kind of praying do you prefer? Can you say why?

## Parents

- a. Children here like worship in the formal setting of an assembly. Why, do you think?
- b. "It's not like they're pushing you..." How could this observation affect the way you pray together at home?

## School/Church

### Individual teachers/support staff:

- a. Assembly worship seems to encourage children to be reflective. To what extent does reflection form a part of learning in class and school culture in general?
- b. How do you ensure that worship in assembly includes everyone?

### School & Church leaders:

- c. How does pupil voice influence the style of worship in your school or church?

## 2. What does it feel like to be in Church?

*"When I'm in church, I just get to breathe, and have peace there."*

*"You can go there and think about God, and it's a very holy place... Church is one of those happy spaces, like my bedroom. I feel really comfortable at church."*

## Children

- a. What does it feel like for you when you go to church?
- b. What do you think the girl means when she says, in church, "I just get to breathe..."?

## Parents

- a. To what extent do we as parents give our children opportunities to experience the stillness they appreciate when they're in church?
- b. How much do our children get the chance to "just sit there and think about God"?

## School

- a. To what extent do we give our children opportunities in school to experience the stillness they appreciate when they're in church?

### Finally: What Next?

How might you use this animation and discussion to change, improve, adapt, or strengthen what you currently do in class and school, at home and in church?

*Authored by Mr Nick Taunt 2024*

