



Where do you go to reflect?

Faith in the Nexus - Places of Spiritual Reflection

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.

Here's a few Year 5/6 children's quotes from the animation, 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-007



Where do you go to reflect?

At home?

"I would just lie on my bed like a starfish, just lie on top of everything and the covers."

Somewhere else?

"There's this tree outside my house and I don't know why I just like climbing in it. It makes me feel happy and life the higher I go it actually makes me feel like I'm closer to the people that I've lost."

Anywhere?

"It's like where you feel comfortable, maybe like somewhere peaceful like where you can hear the birds chirping or like quiet noises."

Where you're on your own?

"By being alone it helps because sometimes when I'm alone...I don't have to talk to other people about how I feel, I kind of talk to God in my imagination, like my thoughts."

Questions for discussion

Children

- a. Where do you go to reflect or pray?
Task for the group with teacher/leader: Draw a mind map on the board or a large piece of paper with this question in a circle in the middle. Around one side of the circle, write all the places suggested.
- b. What's important or special about these places? How do you feel in your special place?
Around the other side of the circle write down the qualities or characteristics (use single adjectives if possible) of the places.
- c. Talk about each quality in turn. Which quality could you help make at home or in school or at church, or outside?

Parents

- a. Where do you go to reflect or pray? What do you find is special about this place?
- b. Several children spoke about being alone as a good 'place' to reflect. Are there opportunities and places that we can give our children to be on their own?

School/Church

Individual teachers/support staff:

- a. Where in your school/church are children able to reflect or pray on their own? How would you describe such a place?
- b. *"It's like where you feel comfortable, maybe like somewhere peaceful..."* How are/might children be involved in creating such a place?

School & Church leaders:

- a. A school is a busy, vibrant, exciting, and sometimes noisy environment. How important is it to have a special place – a garden, a room, a corner – where children can reflect or pray?
- b. On a strategic level, how would you start the process of creating a place where children can reflect or pray? Who would you involve?

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

