

When do you feel close to Jesus and God?

Faith in the Nexus - Animation & Discussion about Encounters with God
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.

Several quotes by Year 5/6 children from the animation introduce 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-002



When do you feel close to Jesus and God?

"A few terms ago we went into the hall. We put music on, and we lay down... and we prayed to Jesus, and when we did that, it felt like I could actually hear Jesus talking to me and it felt really peaceful."

"When I'm in church it helps me because I know that I can pray whenever I'm in there and I can just be myself with God and Jesus."

"I try to pray every night in my bedroom for a while just to thank God."

"When I pray, I feel Jesus is by my side, so he's like encouraging you, helping you, like pushing you forward. When you're sad, he's like your encouragement and he can make you feel better even if you feel really, really sad. I feel I'm really connected to him and I'm special."

Children

- a. Can you think of a time when you've felt close to Jesus or God? Perhaps when you're on your own, or with someone special, or in assembly or church, or praying in a special way.
- b. If you can, what do you think this told you about Jesus?

Parents

- a. How would you describe to your child a time when you felt particularly close to God?
- b. The children in the animation are very open and ready to talk about Jesus; as adults we sometimes find it more difficult. What can we learn from our children about how we talk about God and Jesus?

School & Church

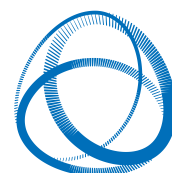
- a. It's not always easy to find the right words to describe a personal spiritual experience. How - and with whom - might you describe a time when you felt particularly close to God?
- b. The children in the animation are very open and ready to talk about Jesus; as adults we sometimes find it more difficult. What can we learn from our children about how we talk in the classroom about Jesus and God, whilst keeping within the bounds of professionalism?

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?

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