

THANKFULNESS

1. As pupils enter

Play your chosen music. Display an item that has been lost and found or that is very precious to you, or a photograph of the Mona Lisa painting.

2. Introduction

Show the children the item that you once lost or that is precious to you. Explain how you felt / would feel if you lost the item. Ask the children whether they have ever lost something very important and how they felt when they lost it.

You could show an image of the Mona Lisa. Explain that it is a very famous painting that is on display in the Louvre museum in Paris. Tell the children that this painting was stolen in 1911 and that the painting was not recovered until two years later, when the thief tried to get a reward for returning it and was arrested. We can imagine how everyone felt after such a special painting had been lost for such a long time and was found.

Explain that in the story everyone is about to watch there is another precious item that is lost. It's based on an old story from the Bible...

3. Play the video

Duration: 3' 41". Final words: 'We'll see you again soon. Bye!'

4. After the video - Time to talk

You could begin by asking the Video questions above to aid children's recall of the story and their understanding of it. Continue with:

- 'Thankfulness' means being full of thanks - we are extremely grateful about something. Have you ever felt very thankful when you found something that had been lost? (The children might give an example of an object that they found or perhaps being lost on a journey and being very grateful when they found out where they were, etc)
- What would you do if you were extremely thankful about something? (You could compare the children's ideas with the woman's reaction of telling all her friends and family and rejoicing)
- The story of *The Lost Coin* is a parable that Jesus told. A parable is a special kind of story, with a 'message' or something that we can all learn from it. So what do you think we can learn from this story?

5. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.



6. Opportunity to reflect

Let's spend a few moments thinking about being thankful...

There are times when each of us finds something that we have lost...

How does it feel to find something precious that has been missing..?

How should we show our thankfulness - do we feel a lot of joy or tell other people when we are thankful..?

For a moment, think about one thing that you are thankful about...

7. Opportunity for prayer

Begin with your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Let us pray', etc) and:

Thank you for stories that help us to think about thankfulness.

Jesus' story shows us that there is great joy when something precious is found.

Help us to think about what is special and valuable in our lives.

Help us to find the ways to be thankful about these things and to share our thankfulness.

Amen.