

## Jubilee Year 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Visio Divina style reflection for primary schools based on the Jubilee icon

**Theme:** Jubilee Year, hope, poverty

**Purpose:** For children to reflect on the Good News and hope that Christ brings (Luke 4: 16-)

**Materials required:** Presentation with Jubilee icon

**Suggested choice of music:**

- God's Spirit is in my heart (Complete celebration of hymns old and new: 99)
- Gentle music for reflection eg DappyTkeys

**Time allocation:** 15-30 minutes, depending on age of pupils



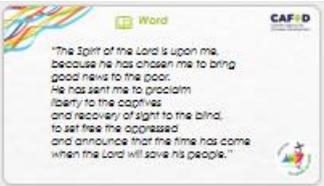
**Gather:** We come together as part of God's family

Slide	Script
	<p>Opening music: Chorus of 'God's Spirit is in my heart...' OR gentle instrumental music (optional)</p>
	<p>Explain that this prayer session is going to be a little different and is in the style of Visio Divina. This means it involves using a piece of art to help reflect on God's word. The type of art shown here is called an icon. An icon is a sacred piece of art because it helps us to pray.</p> <p>Here is the piece of art we will look at. It is by an artist (Mulugeta Araya) from Ethiopia and has been specially created for the Jubilee. It reminds us of the Jubilee's focus on freedom for those who suffer because they are facing poverty, or are in prison, or because they are experiencing war, unfairness or inequality.</p> <p>Let's begin with a prayer to help us to know Jesus more through this piece of art which illustrates God's word.</p> <p>In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen</p>

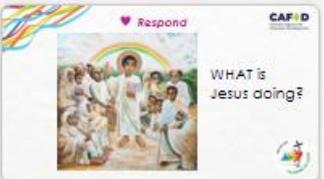
	<p>Lord,          Open our eyes          so that we can see you.          Open our ears          so that we can hear your word.          Open our hearts          so that we can love you          and others more and more.          Amen.</p>
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**Word:** *God speaks to us, and we listen*

Slide	Script (Luke 4: 16-)
 <p>A reading from the Gospel of Luke.</p>	<p>As we listen to this Gospel, we will think about the words and how they are shown in the piece of art.</p> <p>Let us greet the Gospel.</p> <p>A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Glory to you, O Lord</p>
 <p>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people."</p>	<p><i>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,          because he has chosen me to          bring good news to the poor.          He has sent me to proclaim          liberty to the captives          and recovery of sight to the blind,          to set free the oppressed          and announce that the time has come          when the Lord will save his          people."          (Luke 4:18-19)</i></p>

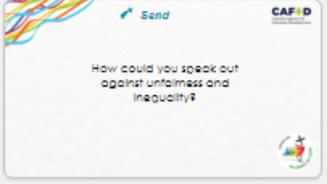
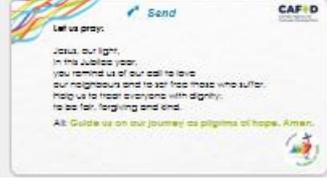
 **Respond:** We respond to the Word of God

Slide	Script
	<p>WHO is in the picture? (Give pupils time to look and discuss.)</p>
	<p>How do we know this is Jesus?</p> <p>He has a halo on his head (gold ring above his head). This shows he is divine and is God's Son. Usually the halo in an icon is made with gold leaf, but because of the challenges in Ethiopia at the moment, this one is made with paint.</p> <p>He is also holding a book (scriptures), it is the word of God which he is proclaiming.</p> <p>Look at the people in the picture – what do you notice?</p>
	<p>They are different: young and old, male and female. The woman with a stick at the front shows Jesus' concern for those who are often overlooked in our society, such as elderly people, vulnerable people and people living with a disability.</p> <p>All of them have their eyes fixed on Jesus. Jesus came for all, no-one is left out. His Good News of hope and love is for everyone.</p>
	<p>WHAT is Jesus doing? (Give pupils time to look and discuss.)</p>
	<p>He has his right hand up to show that he is teaching and his teaching is for everyone.</p> <p>Everyone's eyes are on him, but Jesus is looking at us (the audience) because he wants us to listen to his word. His teaching is not just for this crowd but for all people today all over the world - in the past and the future too.</p>

	<p>He wants to give us the Good News of God's love and hope. He also wants us to follow him and give this message to others, especially people living in poverty and people who are vulnerable.</p>
	<p>WHY has the artist use these symbols? What do you think they mean? (Give pupils time to look and discuss.)</p> <p><i>You may wish to prompt pupils and remind them to think of a story they heard with a rainbow.</i></p> <p>The man has a bag. What do you think it is for?</p> <p>There is a wall – what does a wall do?</p>
	<p>The artist (as mentioned) is from Ethiopia. The word of God is very important to him. That is why he has included a leather bag – to protect it and keep it safe. (Challenge: The word of God in this picture is written in Ge'ez, an Ethiopian liturgical language).</p> <p>The rainbow is a symbol of hope and of God's covenant/promise with all people – it is a sign of hope (like in the story of Noah and the flood).</p> <p>A wall is used to separate people, but here Jesus has gathered them all in one space so that they are united and not divided or treated unequally or unfairly.</p> <p>(Challenge: The brick wall shows the separation between God's house – the Synagogue – and the outside world. In this icon, Jesus has come into an open space where the crowds can gather together on equal terms, unlike the required segregation in the Synagogue and the Temple of the original story. This is to show that the Good News and the Jubilee liberation are for the whole world).</p>
	<p><i>Depending on the age and ability of pupils, you may wish to listen to the piece of scripture again.</i></p> <p>What do you think God is saying to you today? How can we work together to bring good news of hope and love?</p> <p>Challenge: How can you show respect for the word of God? How can you treat people equally and fairly? How can you be a sign of hope for those in experiencing poverty or inequality?</p>



**Send:** We want to share the Good News!

Slide	Script
	<p>How could you speak out against unfairness and inequality?</p> <p>Can you think of anything you could do?</p> <p><i>Explore CAFOD's Debt campaign as an example of speaking out against injustice.</i></p>
	<p>Let us pray.</p> <p>Jesus, our light, In this Jubilee year, you remind us of our call to love our neighbours and to set free those who suffer. Help us to treat everyone with dignity; to be fair, forgiving and kind. Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.</p> <p>In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p>