Pilgrimage Moments: A Thin Place

Introduction

This lesson explores themes discussed in the TrueTube film *Pilgrimage Moments: A Thin Place.*

The concept of a "thin place" features within Celtic expressions of Christianity. These are places are where the barrier between heaven and earth is said to be thinner.

This lesson would work well as part of a unit about different expressions on where is God or Pilgrimages.

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Overview

Suitable for: Upper Key Stage 2

Lesson Objective: To explore the concept of a "thin place" as found in Celtic Spirituality and explore ponder spots and what they are for.

Key Question: What is a 'thin place'? How do people find and use a "thin place"?

Time: 1 hour

TrueTube Film: Pilgrimage Moments: A Thin Place

Resources: Internet connected whiteboard

Film List

Pilgrimage Moments: A Thin Place – TrueTube Watch till 2 minutes 25 seconds

From the critically acclaimed BBC Two and iPlayer series Pilgrimage follows well known personalities of differing faiths and beliefs on a personal journey of discovery as they tackle some of the most famous walking routes across the UK and Europe. In this series the Pilgrims go to Wales in Pilgrimage The Road Through North Wales.

Eryl the Pioneer Priest talks about Celtic Spirituality to the Pilgrims. Tom, Christine and Eshaan respond especially well to being in a "thin place".

Starter:

Begin the lesson with a Think-Pair-Share activity, which is: 30 seconds alone to think about an answer to a question (or questions), 1 minute to discuss their answers with a partner, and then a short class discussion with contributions from the pairs.

Questions:

•What is the most amazing thing you've ever seen in nature?

• How did you feel when you saw it?

Watch: What A Wonderful World performed by David Attenborough - BBC

- What was the most amazing creature did you see?
- What adjectives would you use to describe our world?

Extension:

•Was it easy to put into words how you felt when you saw something amazing in nature? Why? Why not?

- Where do you feel the calmest?

- Where is your special place?
- When do you just stop to think about your day?

Key Words:

My turn your turn these words: 5 mins

Celtic Spirituality

A Christian way of praying and living that began with the early Celtic peoples which focuses on nature, God's presence in everyday life, and a deep sense of community.

ponder spot

A quiet place where someone goes to think, reflect, or pray.

Pioneer Priest

A priest who travels to new or remote areas to share their faith and support small or developing communities.

Iona

A small island in Scotland known as a holy place because it's where St. Columba started an important Christian community.

Thin Place

A place where people feel especially close to God or the spiritual world, as if the barrier between heaven and earth is very thin

Main activity:

1. Watch the clip till Pilgrimage Moments: A Thin Place – TrueTube Watch till 2 minutes 25 seconds
2. Think pair share on what impressions you get of Tom?
3. How did the Pioneer Priest and Tom describe the "thin place" and the "Ponder spot"
4. Think pair share on how important it is to stop, look and consider life.
5. If possible, go outside into your school's ground and give the pupils time to find their ponder spot. Once at their ponder spot focus on one item of nature and ponder. Sit in a circle outside and discuss how it felt to just sit. How did they feel?

6. If an outside place is not available give the children four images for example Uluru, an empty beach, a forest or a park to choose where they would choose to ponder life. You could do a guided visualisation for the places that the pupils have picked.
7. Pupils could then to draw their own ponder spot and have a thought bubble for what they did ponder or could ponder.

Extension:

1. What might a religious person ponder compared to a person with a personal worldview? Could they ponder the same thoughts?
2. Would all people have the same ponder spot to find their thin place?
3. Could they think of a good place to ponder this week that might be their own thin place?