

Dandelion: a metaphorical bible story

A Dandelion story for assembly or circle time.

Aim: Pupils think about valuing the commonplace and the quality of resilience.

Resources:

- Collect dandelions and display in a posy or a jam jar whilst telling the story.

The Story:

God sent an Angel to find the perfect flower. The Angel started on his mission. He went to many gardens all around the world and he kept bringing back the rarest and most beautiful flowers that he could find. God would look at each flower that he brought back and say "No, that's not it" and God would send the angel back to find an even more perfect flower. Then one day, when the angel was searching for yet another beautiful, fabulous garden, he passed by a field of dandelions. Uncut and left to grow, not in a fancy garden, just in a field. They looked just like a carpet of sunshine. It was the first time that the angel had noticed that little yellow flower, because he had spent all of his time in the smart gardens. The dandelions weren't in those fancy gardens. They were everywhere else growing in abundance. They were different sizes and grew back quickly, even if they were cut. The angel noticed how hard people were working to destroy these dandelions, but no matter how hard they tried, the dandelions kept coming back - they couldn't get rid of them. The angel decided to take the dandelion back to Heaven and he was going to tell God all that he had learned about that little yellow flower... they came back, they grew in abundance...

After God listened, he replied "So is this why you have brought the dandelion as the perfect flower?" The angel answered: "No, not really. That's not the real reason, I choose the dandelion because of all of the other places that I found it. In the pocket of a mother's apron. In the necklaces and headbands worn by the neighbourhood children. In the dirty hands of a two-year-old... roots and all. And proudly displayed on the dining room table, in a fruit jar. "Lord, this is the perfect flower, because it grows everywhere, it's resilient, costs nothing, and no one minds if the children pick them."

Success Criteria

- ✓ Pupils recognise resilience and can explain what it means.

Be like a dandelion: Christian values

Reflection activity on the properties of dandelions

Aim: Pupils consider how they can demonstrate Christian values though popping up "like dandelions" to be helpful, honest and kind.

Resources:

- Dandelions collected in the school grounds. If possible, collect both yellow flower heads, and the pappus seed heads. Display them on tables or in a jar.

This can be a stand-alone or follow on activity to the dandelion story

Activity

- Examine the dandelions and discuss where they grow, and why some people try to get rid them in the garden.
- Dandelions not only want to stay where they are growing, but they like to grow in as many places as possible, so spread their seeds prolifically, using the wind to distribute them widely.
- Dandelions aren't cared for like we care for other flowers, but they keep growing. They will grow just about anywhere and are very resilient.
- Pupils think about how Christians could be more like dandelions, popping up in places where we can be helpful and true like Jesus shows in bible stories. When people are honest, or helpful, or kind, they are demonstrating Christian values.
- Pupils may finish by writing their own prayer or using this one:
"Dear God, there are many places where we can show, by our actions, that we believe in you. Guide us, God, and show us where we can be dandelions. Amen."

Success Criteria

- ✓ Pupils reflect and find a place to 'be a dandelion' today.

