Here are a few ideas to explore in greater depth during whole school or class collective worship.

**Explore the Parable of the Mustard Seed**

In the Lord’s Prayer there is the line: ‘Your kingdom come’. What do you think Jesus meant when he said ‘kingdom’? What might a perfect kingdom look like?

Jesus taught his followers about God’s kingdom being a place, or way of living, where God’s love and values rule. So when Christians pray the line: ‘Your kingdom come…’ they remember Jesus’ teaching. Christians try to live their lives remembering that, as members of God’s kingdom, they should love God and love their neighbour as themselves.

Jesus taught his disciples that they could build God’s kingdom through quiet and small actions as well as bold, big actions.

Jesus taught about God’s kingdom, saying that it is like a mustard seed. Listen to this short story which Jesus told.

Matthew 13:31-33

‘Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”’

Why do you think Jesus described God’s kingdom in this way? He also said that God’s kingdom is like a party, a treasure, and yeast in a lump of dough. I wonder why he used these pictures to help his followers understand what God’s kingdom is like?

Give some examples of small actions which can make a significant difference to the life of your community in school, or talk about someone you know who quietly supports others and makes the world a better place by their actions.

These small actions can make a big difference to the wellbeing of the Earth and communities throughout the world – our global community.

**Point of action linked to potential, transformation and change**

As Harvest is near the beginning of the school year, ask pupils to think about what they would like to achieve in the year ahead as an individual and as a class. Think about more than just academic goals.

What are the seeds of potential within you and within your whole class? How could these grow during the year ahead?

Find a way to collect and display children’s ideas or provide an individual journal space for them to write/draw their thoughts. Perhaps the children could be given a ‘sunflower journal’ to keep a record of their reflections across the year.
**Explore the Christian creation story**

*Read a child-friendly version of the Christian creation story.*

When God created the world – the sun, the seas, the plants and all the animals – he looked at it all and said it was ‘very good’.

Christians believe we are called to care for God’s good creation. And Christians are also called to give thanks for the beauty of the Earth.

In the creation story there is shalom – peace, wholeness, balance. Do we experience this kind of peace today? Why/why not? What spoils our world today? Are there things that humans can do to make a difference?

In the creation story, all people are created in the image of God – each one unique and valuable. Christians believe, therefore, that everyone is precious and unique to God. How do we celebrate the gifts, dignity, talents and unique personality of everyone – including your friends, everyone in your class and the whole school community? How do we show respect to one another?

In the creation story, humans were created for companionship and to help one another. In the story from Ethiopia, Aster and her friends have come together to help each other using solar energy.

How could you work together in your class or whole school community to support one another? How could you work with people in your neighbourhood for the good of your local community?

How could you support and stand with children and families all over the world to help transform our world for the better?

**School values**

Whole school values are often explored during school collective worship. The story of Agar would be a good catalyst for reflecting on the following values: Respect, Hope, Equality, Justice. This could be through a series of collective worship for the whole school or class over a number of weeks, and supported by learning and reflection across the curriculum.

**Prayer/reflection**

Using the sunflower template overleaf, either:

Give each child a paper sunflower and ask them to write a thought or prayer in response to one of the themes above eg, a thank you thought/prayer, a prayer for Agar and her family, a prayer for the world. Add each sunflower prayer/reflection to a sunflower display.

Or

Set up a focal area including a large shallow bowl of water (large round plant trays work well), coloured drapes, pictures of creation or a display of flowers. You could use a copy of Van Gogh’s ‘Sunflowers’ as a part of your display.

Give each child a paper sunflower and ask them to write a prayer/reflection on it and then fold down the petals moving in a clockwise direction. Gather around the focal display and play some quiet music. When they’re ready, each child places their flower in the ‘water pool’ and quietly waits and watches as the flowers open on the water surface, revealing the prayers and reflections written.

Find more activities and ideas for your school at

caid.org.uk/harvest-schools
Photocopy and cut out this sunflower template to make enough for every child.