

In this season of Pentecost, we choose to grow in Jesus' name.

Amen

What have you remembered from collective worship this week?

What stories do you recall?

What ideas have stayed with you?



We are going to reflect on an image together.

We will be quiet whilst we look at it. Then we can share what we are thinking about.







These huge trees of the Sierra Nevada range in California are among the world's largest and oldest living things. They can grow up to 94 metres tall - that's more than 21 double-decker buses! They can grow up to eight metres wide around the trunk!

They are very impressive.

Individual trees have been dated to more that 3,000 years old. They have taken a long time grow!

Sometimes growth is so slow, we don't notice it. Sometimes growth is sudden and fast... sometimes it happens slowly and gently! Can you share an example of each from your experience?

Let's think

What does it mean to be gentle?

What words are similar in meaning?

The Bible says **gentleness** is a characteristic of God.

Do you know anyone who is gentle?

Are you gentle?

We too can grow **gentleness**. The Bible says that **gentleness** is a fruit that comes from knowing God's Spirit.

Being gentle is not being weak! Sometimes it takes courage to be gentle.

There are different symbols for God's Spirit that help us understand his **gentleness** and strength.

Which symbol do you like and why?



Let's pray

Lord Jesus

We pray that our school will be a place where everyone can grow and flourish. Please help us to welcome change as we follow you. Teach us to be gentle as we wait for your Kingdom to come. Amen

Psalm 4: Evening Prayer for Help and Peace (adapted from Good News Version)

Answer me when I pray,

O God, my defender!

When I was in trouble, you helped me

O God, my defender!

Be kind to me now and hear my prayer

O God, my defender!

Remember that the Lord hears me when I call to him

You alone, O Lord, keep me perfectly safe.

Think deeply about this when you lie in silence on your beds You alone, O Lord, keep me perfectly safe.

Offer the right sacrifices to the Lord and put your trust in him You alone, O Lord, keep me perfectly safe.

The joy that you have given me is more than others will ever have You alone, O Lord, keep me perfectly safe.

When I lie down, I go to sleep in peace;

You alone, O Lord, keep me perfectly safe.



