**GATHER**

- Your word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.
  - or

- Show us your paths, O Lord, and teach us your ways.
  - or

- For the gift of his holy word, thanks be to God.

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| **THE BIBLE IS A LAMP (whole school)**  
Psalm 119 v 105  
This picture of the Bible is an example of how the guidance given shows the way far ahead but also around our feet – which is needed on difficult terrain in the darkness. Christians believe that the Bible can show the right path to follow but also provide guidance at each moment so that they avoid dangers like holes in a path.  
Choose your favourite teaching of Jesus – eg a parable or the example which Jesus set – explain to pupils how that has been a ‘lamp’ for you. | Pray about following the right path as the Bible tells us to do.  
Put footsteps or signposts leading out of the Hall so that pupils can literally follow the right path back to their classes. | Say together  
The Lord bless us and watch over us, the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us, the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. |

| **THE BIBLE IS PRECIOUS (whole school)**  
Psalm 119 v 72  
Look at particular objects – those which are obviously valuable but also those which hold personal value but may not be worth a lot of money. The Bible is precious to Christians for many reasons. It tells them of God’s love, they believe that it contains God’s message to them, and it speaks of Jesus and his Holy Spirit. Many people risked their lives and even died to own a Bible in their own language. People continue to risk their lives to translate Bibles and get them to Christians today.  
‘I have chosen a special and precious story….– why a particular story is so precious to you  
OR  
Tell the story of Mary Jones who saved for 6 years for a Bible of her own (see the Bible Society website for details) | Look at some images of illuminated Bibles – the precious Bible was made to look very special to convey its great value to those who read and owned it. Use the images to reflect on the value and significance of the Bible in our lives. |  

### THE BIBLE IS A HAMMER (whole school)
Jeremiah 23 v 29
Explore the work of a sculptor of stone and how he/she needs to use a hammer to “reveal” the sculpture beneath. When he/she does this it is as if the figure is already in the stone and the sculptor reveals it. Christians believe that reading the Bible and trying to do what God wants will gradually change them – in this way God will make them into the best person they can be. God will “chip away” all the bad things from their lives and transform them into the person he wants them to be.
Invite someone to lead worship who can talk about how the Bible has changed them.

### THE BIBLE IS SWEETER THAN HONEY (Key Stage or class worship)
Jeremiah 15 v 16/Psalm 119 v 103
Talk about the favourite sweet things that pupils like to eat. Explain that the Bible being ‘sweeter than honey’ is the equivalent of ‘the Bible is sweeter than chocolate…ice cream…strawberries’ (or whatever the suggestions from pupils were)
Look at honey – explain that this was the only way to sweeten food in Old Testament times and that people loved it. But they loved the word of God even more – because it was sweeter than honey.
Use a message written on rice paper and eat it – Jeremiah said he ate the word of God, but he meant that he memorised/interpreted the words. Christians aim to know the Bible so well that it is a part of them.
Try learning some simple memory verses from the Bible as that is what some Christians do so that they can take the Bible with them even if they do not have the book itself. Which verses might change a person’s life?