



2022

Encounters with God

Using imaginative prayer &
contemplative photography
with children



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"In all things God
works for the good
of those who
love him."
Romans 8:28

Encounters with God, is a contemplative photography resource for children.

It uses imaginative prayer to enable children to have an encounter with God and to experience and develop a personal relationship with Him.

Imaginative prayer can:

- *provide a pathway to God*
- *enable an encounter with God*
- *nurture spiritual development and faith expansion*
- *use the imagination to nurture spirituality*





Children have a surprising capacity
for depth in their spirituality

Nye, R. (2009)

It is important to explore approaches to develop children's spirituality as they have a rich spiritual dimension to their lives

Hyde, B. (2008)





Contemplative Photography
Session Outline



Examples of contemplative sessions:

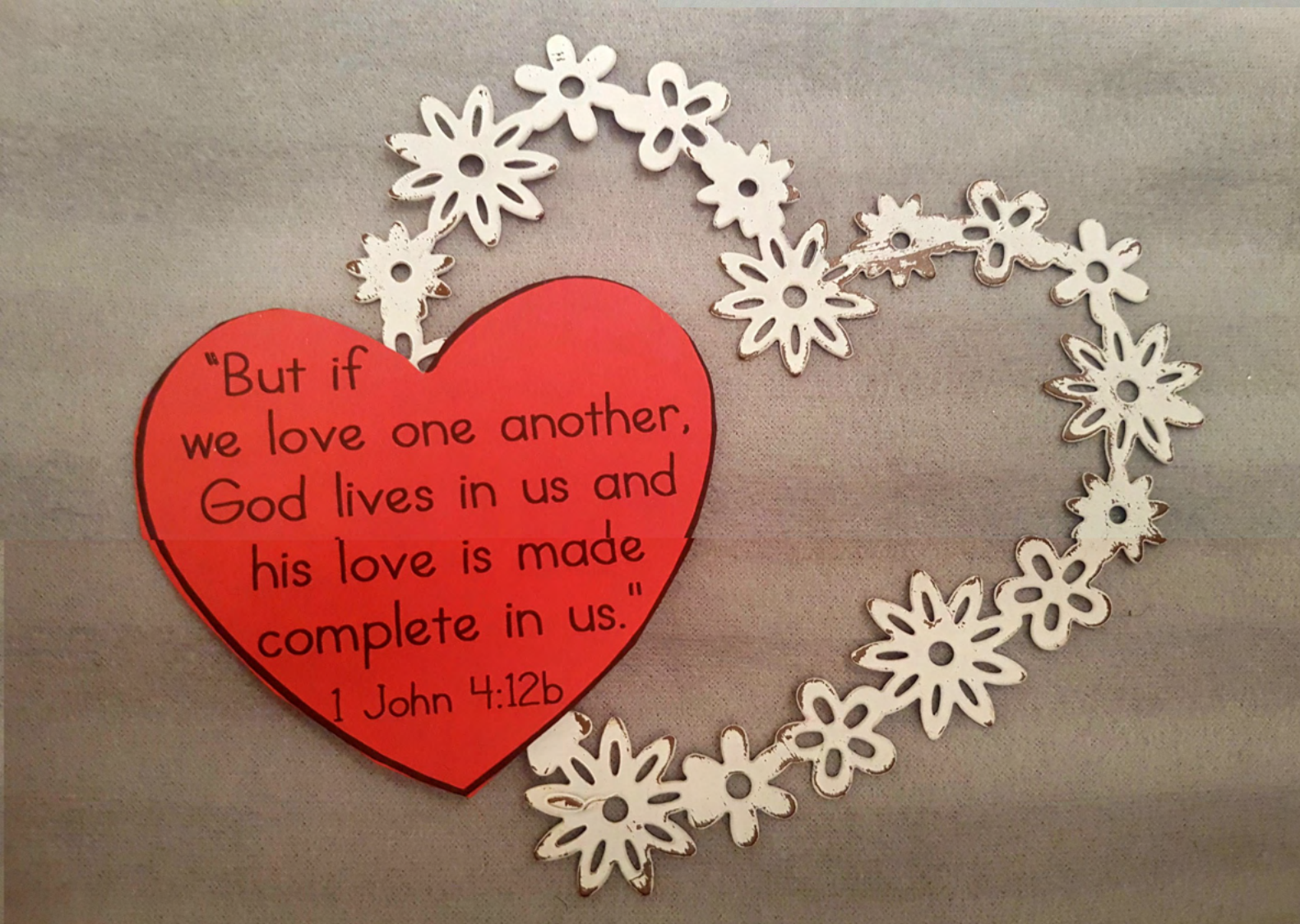
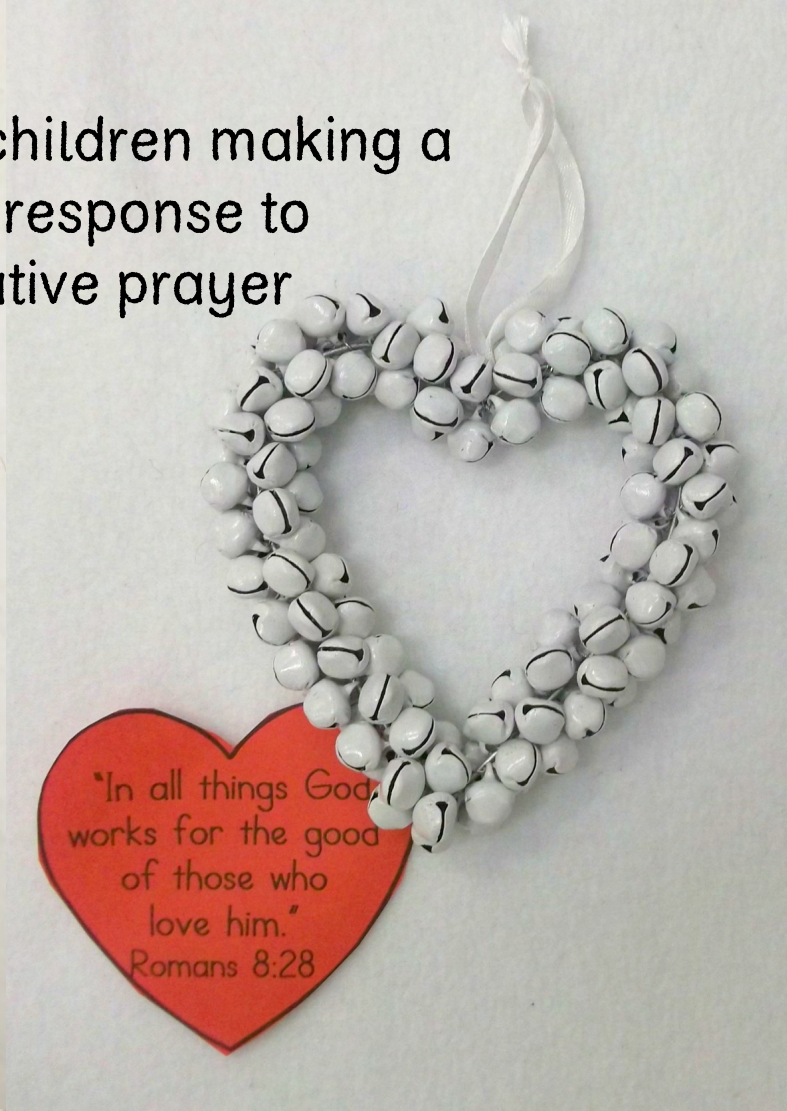
- **God's Love** - pondering on the words from scripture and psalms
- **The Lost Sheep** - pondering on the parable from Luke's Gospel from the New Testament
- **God's Melody** - pondering on the words from scripture and psalms
- **A Starry Promise** - pondering on the promise made to Abraham from the Old Testament

God's Love

"Love is patient,
love is kind."
1 Corinthians 13:4a



Examples of children making a creative response to imaginative prayer



The Lost Sheep



I found my lost sheep,
let us celebrate!

Luke 15:6



A close-up, slightly angled photograph of the headstock of a light-colored wooden guitar. The image shows five silver tuning pegs on the left side and five corresponding string anchors on the right side. The strings are visible, extending from the anchors across the top of the headstock. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

God's Melody

My heart is confident O God,
I will sing and make music.

Psalm 57:7



A Starry Promise



Look up at the heavens
and count the stars

Genesis 15:4





"Love is patient,
love is kind."
1 Corinthians 13:4a

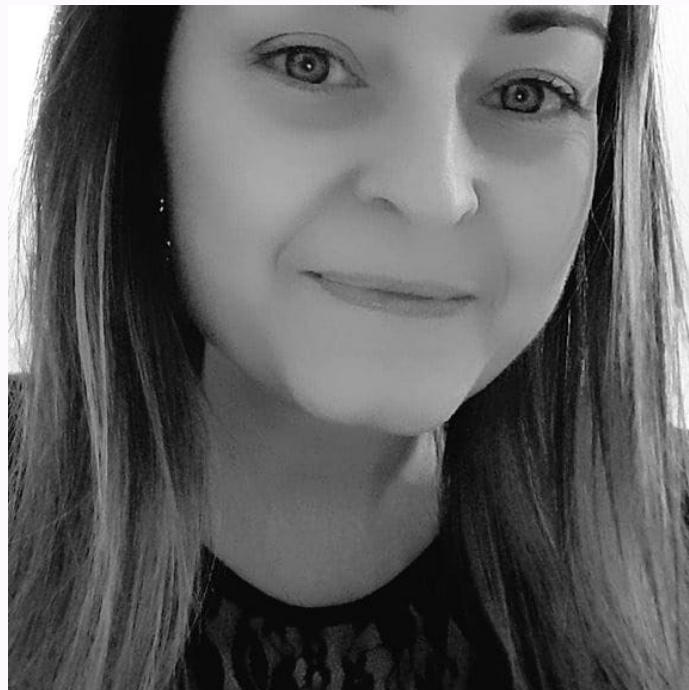


Arco Iris Learning was founded in 2011 by Maria Wojciechowska-Caneda, who has taught in Primary Education for over 20 years.

She leads Creative Photography after-school sessions, Contemplative Photography sessions, CPD for Primary school colleagues and is the editor of CreativiTREE – the Arco Iris Learning termly magazine.

Maria is the Director and Creative Educator of Arco Iris Learning and is based in South-East London. She can deliver sessions in person or online.

She continues to nourish her own spirituality. She is particularly influenced by Ignatian practices and the contemplative works of Teresa of Avila, Margaret Silf as well as the writings of C.S. Lewis.



Maria Wojciechowska-Caneda
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