



2025 LOST AND FOUND

cte.org.uk/educationsunday2025

All Age Worship - Education Sunday 2025

These ideas offer a flexible framework which you can adapt for your own congregation. Use whichever elements you find most helpful. There is plenty of scope for you to develop your own material too.

The service begins with a general thanksgiving for the role of education and the value of learning and leads into a more specific focus on those who might feel lost and need support in order to thrive.

Adoration

The prompts and examples below are to help generate content for a prayer of adoration

Prompt 1: Education can be formal and informal

For the very young:

- The best thing I learned in school this week is.....
- The best thing I learned in the playground this week is.....
- The best thing I learned with my friends this week is

Examples for the less young:

- My biology teacher taught me a love of the natural world
- When I was little, I loved helping my grandma in the garden
- I had a teacher who told me she had always struggled with spelling – this surprised and reassured me

Purpose: To (re)discover the riches that come with learning new things

Prompt 2: Education happens across a lifetime

For the very young

- I am looking forward to learning about.....
- I can teach my family about.....

Examples for the less young

- I didn't learn to knit until I was in my 40's
- I didn't really understand maths until I started using it at work
- My grandchildren taught me how to use my mobile phone

Purpose: To be reminded that learning is happening all the time

Using these prompts and examples (others could be added), experiences to share in worship can be gathered in several different ways

- Finding people before the service to come to the front with a simple statement about their own lifelong learning
- Setting up discussion points in a service with a scribe in each group to capture simple statements.
- Using these (and any additional examples) to prompt silent prayers. This could be brought to an end using the prayer structure below without any additional silences.

A possible prayer structure

We bring our thanks and praise for all the places, people and experiences that reveal something new

Silence (or use experiences gathered above)

We bring our thanks and praise because we never stop discovering new things

Silence (or use experiences gathered above)

We bring our thanks and praise that in worship you speak to open hearts and minds

Silence

Confession

We confess that:

When we think we already know the answers – we stop looking

When we close our minds and our hearts to what other people have to offer – we stop listening

When we judge too harshly – we limit what is possible

But God will keep looking, keep listening and keep calling for the best that is in us

So, hear again the words of grace

Our sins are forgiven AMEN, Thanks be to God

With our eyes and ears, hearts and minds open we come into His presence.

The word

Luke 15: 1-10 and the final verse of the story of the prodigal son Luke 15 31-32

Or

Use the resource: [Lost Things: An all-age drama](#) for Education Sunday 2025,

which includes [the prayer for Education Sunday 2025](#)

The message

An outline for our thinking about these stories might be:

- **Feeling lost**
- **Keep searching**
- **Everyone matters**

Different ways to develop these themes...

Imagine:

Feeling lost	What if you were the lost coin, the lost sheep or the lost child?
Keep searching	If you were the coin or the sheep or the child, you would be glad that the woman kept looking, the shepherd kept seeking and the parent kept hoping
Everyone matters	A small coin is valuable to the woman who needed it, a single sheep completes the flock, the child who makes mistakes is loved as much as all the other children in the family

Illustrations from the classroom:

Feeling lost	Have you ever felt that everyone else was understanding something, but not you?
Keep searching	The best teachers don't say 'this child will never learn' they say 'we just haven't found the best way to teach this yet'
Everyone matters	Spending time finding and supporting the child who feels lost, shows how much they matter

Activity with the young church before the service

Gathering images or drawings to produce a poster to use in the service to show:

- Feeling lost
- Keep searching
- Everyone matters

Activity for the whole church before the service

Gathering stories from the congregation that can be read out or presented as a video interview in the service

- A time I felt lost
- A time I didn't give up
- A time when someone else helped me (we all need each other)

Prayer activity

Prepare three prayer stations perhaps represented by a purse (the lost coin) a shepherd's crook (the lost sheep) a church or a house to represent the family (the prodigal son)

In a time of silent prayer, write down:

- Someone who might feel lost; this could be a name or a general description (e.g. someone struggling with a mental health issue, Lea who is always alone in the playground)
- Someone who has supported you through a difficult time
- Someone the church needs to reach out to, to show how much they matter (this could be a more general description e.g. an adult literacy group)

These can be placed at the three stations