



Christian Education

Foundation Year (age 5 -6)

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God is Love (5 Weeks)



Outcomes:

At the completion of the module students will understand that:

- The Bible is a special book
- The true story of how God created the world is in the first book.
- God knows everything about us because He made us. We are special to God.

Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Myself: my body, my interests, my family

Link between “God is Love” and the topic:

God loves me because He made me. He is my Father and I am His child.

Values

Compassion; Cultural understanding, empathy; Respect for family and community; appreciation for God’s gift of life

God is Love

Week 1: God is our Father who loves you very much.

Introduction to the Bible

The creation story: Gen.1:1-2:2

God created me. I am special.

Memory verse – Your Word, Lord, will last forever. Ps.119:89

The Bible is a very special book; It is Father God's words written down.

- The Bible helps us know what God is like.
- Have a look at some different Bibles with your child, both adult and children's versions. They are all Bibles with the same stories about Father God and His Son Jesus. Some have pictures, others don't. They come in different sizes, have different covers but they are all God's Word.
- The Bible is different from other books we use. Show a cookery book, or story book.
- No book is as important and special as the Bible. Father God gave it to us so we can know Him and how he plans for us to live.

Memory verse – Your Word, Lord, will last forever. Ps.119:89

- What is meant by God's word? Why is it special? It is God speaking to us and telling us what to do; and telling us about Him. How do we know the word of God is true?

Story: How God made the world Genesis 1

Read the 7 days of Creation (Use a children's Bible or the story below.)

Who made the world? God did. At one time there was no world. There was no sun and no moon.

Then God said, "Let there be light." And there was. This was day one.

Then God said, "Let there be a sky, and let there be water and land. This was day two.

Then God said, "Let there be plants." This was day three.

Then God said, "Let there be a sun, a moon and stars." This was day four.

Then God said, "Let there be fish in the water and birds in the sky." This was day five.

Then God said, "Let there be animals on the land. Let there be people too." This was day six.

Then God said, "Everything I have made is very good. I will rest." This was day seven.

Question: On which day did God make the dinosaurs? Why are they not here today? They are 'extinct' (explain). God made them on day 6 when He made the other animals that live on land.

We are special to God.

God made people on day 6, the same days as the land animals, but we are more special. Why? We can love God, and He loves us very much. God is Love. Who loves you the most? God loves you even more.

God is Love

Week 2: God is Our Father and I am His child

People are God's special creation; We are made in God's image, with the ability to think, feel and choose.

Memory Verse: How great is the love of God our Father, that we are called children of God.
1 John.3:1a

People are special to God – more special than animals. God loves everyone. *(Ask the student to think of something special about a friend or family member. God made everyone special and loves everyone very much. We are the same in some ways. We have eyes and feet, but different in other ways. How are people different?)*

Everyone is special to God. He told us that He even knows how many hairs on our heads! (Mt.10:29-31) Sing the *Beacon Media* song: "God loves you very specially" from *All Creation Sings*, (See *Beacon Media Primary Music*)

People are valuable. What does that mean? *(Think of a valuable jewel)*. Therefore, we have to treat one another carefully and kindly. God tells us to 'love one another'. *(Draw a paper heart for your child to cut out. Ask them to decorate it and give it away to someone.)*

We are God's children.

Memory verse – John 3:1a. Who are God's children? We are. How much does God the Father love us? Does He love some people more than others?

We can make choices. We can make choices about a lot of things: what we have for a snack, which colour of pencil to draw with, which toy to play with. Can a doll or a teddy make choices? No, they cannot make choices like we can. *(Set out some different foods, or objects. Ask the student to make a choice.)*

We can make choices about things we like. We also have to make a choice sometimes between what's right or wrong, e.g. We choose whether to wait our turn or to push in front of another child, whether to tidy away our toys when we are asked.

God is Love

Week 3: God is Our Father and I am His child

God Our Father has made each of us special. He is a Father who listens to us.

Memory Verse: I will praise you, for I am wonderfully made. Ps.139:14

God made each person very special. He knows everything about us. He knew us even before we were born. He knew all about us while we were growing in secret inside our mum, where nobody but Father God can see.

Memory verse: Ps 139:14

Story: God made me special Genesis 1; Psalm 139

Read the following story and ask the student to draw a picture. You could also make a book from the text, writing one sentence per page, and ask the student to illustrate each page.

I am special. That's because God made me special.

There is no one else the same as me.

There is no one else with the same eyes as me.

There is no one else with the same hair as me.

There is no one else with the same finger print as me.

I am special. That's because God made me special.

God made me to be His special friend.

God loves me very much. He loves me just the way I am. That's because He made me.

Action poem

Lord, You know all about me (point to self)

You know when I get up, (stand up)

You know when I sit down (sit back down)

You know about my thoughts (point to head)

You know about everything I do (make large swirls with hands)

You made my whole body (move hands to touch head to toes)

You made me in my mother's body (cuddle your own body)

I thank You because You made me in an amazing way (wave arms from one side to other-making arc)

What You have done is wonderful (flick fists and fingers to make stars)

I know this very well (Nod head and clap)

God thinks of me: Ps.139:15-18 tells us that God thought about us and planned for us. God is everywhere; is always thinking about us and has good plans for those who follow His ways. What is a plan? What is a good plan? What good plan could God have for you? God has good plans for us when we love Him. How can we show that we love Him?

God listens to us. Because He loves us so much, He wants to hear us pray. What can we pray for? Who can we pray for?

God is Love

Week 4: Jesus knows all about me and knows my name

Jesus, God's son, came to live on the earth to show people how much God loves them.

Memory Verse: God knows how many hairs on your head. You are more precious to Him than the birds. Matthew 10:31

Who is Jesus? Jesus is God's Son. Like God the Father, Jesus is God. He has always been there. About 2,000 years ago, God sent His Son from heaven to earth as a baby. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Israel. Like other children, Jesus learned to talk and read and help His parents. But Jesus was different too: He never did anything wrong. He never had bad thoughts or and never made wrong choices. He was not only person but also perfect, holy God.

The importance of names. (The student can write and decorate their name on a card.)

Why do we have names?

When do we use names?

How many names do we have? (First and second name)

Do you know anyone who has exactly the same name as you?

Do you know the meaning of your name?

Do you know the meaning of your best friend's name?

Does Jesus know your name?

Story: Jesus knew their names (John 1:43-50 - Jesus calls Nathanael)

Jesus knows my name. I am special to Him

When Jesus called the disciples to be His followers, He called them by name. The first ones He called were the four fishermen, Simon, Andrew, James and John. One day, Jesus met Philip walking down a street in Galilee. He knew that Philip would become one of His friends.

"Follow me," Jesus said to Philip. Philip had a friend called Nathanael. He told Nathanael about Jesus. "Come with me," said Philip. "I have found the special One sent by God."

Nathanael went with Philip to see Jesus. When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, He knew that Nathanael too would become one of His friends. He had never heard of Nathanael before, yet Jesus knew all about him. He even knew his name.

"How did you know me? How did you know my name?" asked Nathanael.

Jesus answered, "I saw you, Nathanael, even before Philip asked you to come and meet me. I saw you when you were sitting under the fig tree." Nathanael was surprised and said, "Jesus, you really are the Son of God!"

Does Jesus know about you too? What does He know about you? Jesus not only knows your name, and the colour of your eyes and hair. He also knows when you are feeling happy, sad or afraid. When you ask Him to be your friend, He is there with you all the time.

God is Love

Week 5: Jesus loves us and wants to bless us

Jesus welcomes children and wants to bless them.

Memory Verse: He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them. Mk 10:16

Story: Jesus is a friend of children Mark 10:13-18

Read the story of *Jesus and the children* from a children's Bible or use the following story. (Mk 10:13-16)

The children were happy. Jesus had come to their town. They wanted to see Jesus. "Hurry, Mum," said the children. "We want to see Jesus. Please take us to see Him."

The Mums took their children to see Jesus. There was a big crowd. The children wanted to go to the front of the crowd.

"Get back! Get back!" said the friends of Jesus. "There are grown-ups here who want to be at the front!"

"No!" said Jesus. "I want the children here. Bring them to me."

The Mums brought the children to Jesus.

Jesus sat the children on His knee.

"I love children," He said. "Children are very special. If grown-ups want to be my friends, then they must be like these children."

Children can love Jesus with a special love. Jesus wants you to love Him. He loves you with a special love too.

What did the Mums and Dads want Jesus to do for their children? Who were the disciples?

What did they say? What did Jesus do? What did He say?

Jesus wants to bless us.

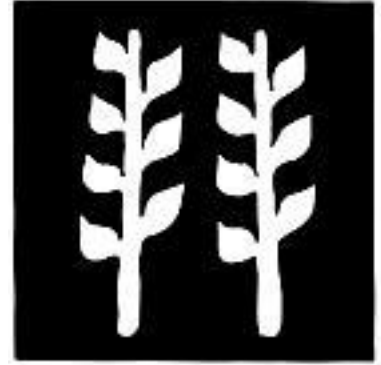
What is a blessing? It is when you plan for something good to happen to a person. What kind of blessings does God give us? (sun, rain, food etc.) How could we bless someone?

Pray for others.

We can bless someone by praying for them. Pray for children of the world. Show pictures of children from different cultures, and discuss how Father God loves everyone. Suggest some of the needs of children, in your country or in other countries and pray for them.

God is Provider

(5 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That God is invisible, but He is everywhere
- That He makes sure we have everything we need
- That He wants us to thank Him for the things He gives us

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Man-made or made by God; The things we need – air, food

Link between “God is Provider” and the topic:

God provides the things I need, because He loves and cares for me.

Values:

Faith; environmental sustainability; peace and prosperity; generosity, thankfulness

God is Provider

Week 1: What can we know about Him?

Understanding who God is / what He is like

He is everywhere; He is more powerful than anyone or anything; He knows everything. He loves, cares for us and provides for us.

Memory Verse: Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised. Ps. 48:1a

God is everywhere at the same time. This is something impossible for people! We cannot be at home, or at the shops and the park at the same time. But God Our Father is everywhere at the same time. There is nowhere we can go that God Our Father won't be with us. Wherever we are, He is there too! He is in every place in the whole world! This is hard to understand and very amazing, but it's true!

God knows everything

We know some things, and we can learn more, but we could never know everything that there is to know. Father God does not have to learn and discover things, He already knows all there is to know! The Bible tells us that He knew us before we were born, he knows our thoughts, He knows the number of hairs on our heads, (Lk 12:7). He knows all the stars by name, (Ps. 147:4)

God is most powerful God is powerful and nothing is too hard for Him. Remember how He created the world? Because God cares for us so much, He has made the things we need out of nothing. He gives us food, water and air to breathe. He **provides** for us. That means that He looks after us and gives us the things we need.

God is everywhere: Wherever we go, God Our Father is with us. He is with everyone in your family. He is with people all over the world at the same time. (*Show map or globe.*)

God knows everything: He knows about us, what we are feeling and thinking. He knows what makes us happy, sad or excited. He knows what we had for breakfast and what we will eat at home tonight.

God hears us: God can do absolutely anything! God is the One who loves us and listens to us, and is able to answer when we ask for His help. (Jer.29:12-13)

Story: God gives us everything we need Gen 1, Phil 4:19, Ps 147:4

Do you know how much God loves us? He loves us more than anyone. He wants to give us good things. He made air and water so that we could live. Only the earth has air to breathe and water to drink.

He made the sun to keep us warm and to give us light. He made plants for our food. Did you know that plants need light to stay alive? If we had no light, we would have no food and we could not live.

God put the sun in the sky, just in the right place. It is not too close to us. It is not too far away. It is just right. It is not too hot for us. It is not too cold for us.

The sun is a star. God made all the stars. He knows exactly how many stars there are and He has names for them all. How many stars do you think there might be? God knows everything!

God made animals too. He made them so that we would be happy. He made animals to help us. God thought of everything! Which animal do you like best? Can you think of some animals that help us?

God is Provider

Week 2: What can we know about Him?

God knows what is best for us.

God has given us the Bible to teach us to follow His ways. Genesis 2 & 3

Memory Verse: Every good and perfect gift comes from God. James 1:17

Introduction to the story: The beautiful Garden of Eden. In this garden, Adam and Eve had air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat, a place to sleep and friendship with one another. (Show a picture from a children's Bible and ask the student to describe what they see in the picture.) Ask: Who made this garden? When did He make it? What bad things were NOT in the garden? What good things were there? We say that the Garden was 'perfect'. What does that mean?

Story: A big mistake Genesis 3 (Adam and Eve broke the rules)

Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. They were very happy. God told Adam and Eve that they must obey Him. He told them that they could eat any food from the garden, but they must never eat the fruit from one tree.

There was an angel who was a wicked angel. His name was Satan. When he became wicked, he became like a snake. Satan said to Adam and Eve, "Go on. Eat the fruit. It will not hurt you."

So Eve ate the fruit. She gave some to Adam. At once they knew that they had done something very wrong. They were sad. God said, "Now that you have done wrong, you cannot be in my beautiful garden. You must go from here. You will not be so happy. This is because you did not obey me."

God sent a good angel to the garden. The angel had a sword. No one could go into the garden from now on. This was a very sad day. The world was now a place of sadness and sin. Adam and Eve were not happy. The animals were not happy.

As Father God provided everything for Adam and Eve, He told them how they should live. God tells us how to live too. He has given us the Bible as a special instruction book. He knows what is best for us. God's Word, the Bible, has things to say to children and adults, about how to live. Here are 2 things:

1. **How to love others:** e.g. to speak kindly, and share.
2. **To do what God says to do:** God Our Father tells us we should obey parents and teachers. What does 'obey' mean? Who should we obey? (We do not obey bad people.)

Following rules

Make a list of rules that we should follow in our home and community. Why should we have these rules? What happens when we disobey? How do we feel? How do others feel?

God is Provider

Week 3: God is my Father and I am His child.

God has given us so much. Let's be thankful for all He has given us.

Memory Verse: No matter what happens, always be thankful. 1Thessalonians 5:18

Story 1: A boy gives his lunch to Jesus John 6:1-14

"Here is your lunch," said Mum. "Five little bread rolls and two little fish."

"Thank you," said the boy. "I am going to see Jesus."

The boy ran to see Jesus. There were many people. The boy sat down with his friends. They listened to Jesus. Then it was lunch time.

Many people did not have lunch.

"Can anyone give me their lunch?" asked Jesus.

"I can," said the boy. The boy gave his lunch to Jesus.

Jesus took the lunch and made more and more lunch...lots and lots of bread ... lots and lots of fish. He made lots of lunch out of one little lunch!

The friends of Jesus gave lunch to all the people. There were many, many people. They all got to eat some lunch. The boy was happy. Jesus was His friend.

Story 2: The man who said thank you. Luke 17:11-19

The ten men in this story have leprosy. This is a disease that gives you sores on your skin. Many people did not want to be around people with leprosy. So, when the lepers saw Jesus, they knew that He could heal them, because they had seen him heal other people. To heal someone means to make them better. Jesus was not like other people. When He saw the lepers, He knew how they felt and wanted to help them, so, He healed them. He made them better using the mighty power of God. Jesus didn't have to heal them, but he did because he loved them.

The ten men were very happy that they were healed, and they went on their way, probably to show people that they were better. There was one man who came back to say thank you to Jesus. The other nine men forgot to say thank you.

Jesus asked the one who came back, "Weren't all ten healed? Where are the other nine? Didn't any of them want to come back to say thank you to God?"

Jesus was not happy that the nine other men forgot to come back and praise God. In our lives we should be like the one who thanked God. What things can we thank God for?

After the story: Asking the student to think of things they want to thank God for.

What does it mean to be thankful? It means that we don't grumble or complain when we don't get exactly what we want. What if you were given some food but it was not your favourite? In some countries, there are many children who do not have enough to eat. What would you do if someone else was playing with the toy that you wanted to play with? Would you make a fuss, or would you be thankful that there are other toys to play with? In some countries, some children have no toys to play with. What would you do if Mum bought you some new clothes but they weren't your favourite colour? We can change from having a sad heart to a thankful heart by finding something to say "Thank You" for. We could say, "Thank you that I have, something to eat", "Thank you that there are other things to play with and I have friends". Pray for children who do not have as much to eat or as many clothes to wear.

Being thankful at home. Ask the student to think of all the things family members do for each other. Ask, "How can we show that we are thankful?"

What do we do at home to show we are thankful for our food?

God is Provider

Week 4: Jesus knows all about me and knows my name.

God is good and wants good things for us.

Memory Verse: He fills my life with good things. Psalm 103:5

Think of some of the good things God provides for us.

God gives us everything we need, Matt 6:25-34

God wants to give us good things. Can you imagine a Mum or Dad who never ran out of money? God, our Heavenly Father, own everything. He never runs out of good things to give us. We can ask Him to provide the things we need.

Story: God provides oil and flour for Elijah 1 Kings 17.

The Bible tells us about a man who trusted God to provide the things they needed. Elijah saw God do miracles to provide for him.

Elijah was a man who lived in Bible times. He was a servant of God. There had been no rain for a long time. The brook dried up.

God said, "Elijah, I want you to go to the town."

Elijah did what God said and went to the town. There he saw a woman. She was picking up sticks. Her husband had died, so she had no husband to earn money for her.

Elijah said to her, "Please get me some water in a jar. And could you please give me a piece of bread to eat?"

The woman looked unhappy "I'm sorry," she said sadly, "I have no bread. I have a little flour in a bowl and a little oil in a jar. That is all I have. I think my son and I will die. We have no more food."

"Do not be afraid," said Elijah. "Make a little bread for me. Then make bread for yourself and your son."

God spoke and said to me, "The bowl of flour will not be finished. The jar of oil will not be empty, until the day when God sends rain."

That is what happened. The bowl of flour was never empty; the jar always had enough oil to make bread for each day. God kept His promise to care for Elijah, the woman and her son, until at last the rain fell and the grass was green again.

Questions:

- 1.What did Elijah tell the lady to get, starting with 'j'
- 2.What had the lady run out of?
- 3.Did she have any other food in the house?
- 4.Did she have any money?
- 5.What did God provide for the lady?
- 6.What did the lady make from the flour and oil?
- 7.Did she share it with Elijah?
- 8.What did the lady do with the left-over oil and flour?

A Poem to learn

God is great, God is good.

He keeps His promises

As He said He would.

God is great, God is good.

He can do anything!

He is so good.

What is a promise? Something someone says, that will absolutely be done. What promises has God made to us?

God is Provider

Week 5: Jesus loves us and wants to bless us

Gratefulness for God's goodness

Memory Verse: O, taste and see that the Lord is good. Ps.34:8

Story 1: Elisha and the Widow's oil (2 Kings 3-4)

Elisha was a friend of Elijah. Their names sound a bit the same. Elisha asked God for the same miracle that Elijah had done.

One day, Elisha was passing through a town, when he met a woman with two sons. Her husband had died and she did not have any money.

But she had to pay money to someone, and that person had told her that if she didn't pay, they would take her sons away to work. She loved her son and didn't want them to be taken away.

"Please help me," she asked Elisha. "I have nothing except for a little oil in a jar."

Elisha felt sorry for the woman. He wanted to help her. Elisha told the woman to tell her sons to go and find all the empty jars that they could. He told them to even borrow jars from their neighbours and friends.

The boys went out and did just as their mother said. They asked all the neighbours and all of their friends to give them their empty jars.

Elisha told the woman and her sons to go inside her house and shut the door.

"Use the oil that you have and fill the first jar. Then fill the next jar. Keep filling all the jars until there are no more jars left."

The woman did not know how this could happen but she did as Elisha said. She knew that Elisha was God's helper. She and her sons went inside the house and shut the door. First, she filled one jar and then set it aside. Then she filled another and set it aside. Over and over again, she filled the jars with oil and the first jar never emptied out.

Finally, when she asked one of her sons to bring her another jar, he told her that there were no more jars left. All of the jars were full of oil.

The woman rushed outside to tell Elisha. Elisha told her to go and sell the oil. People would pay a lot of money for olive oil. It would be enough to pay all the money that she owed. Now her sons would not be taken away from her! She was so glad that Elisha helped her.

God hears us when we pray. God is good to us. He knows what we need and He cares for us. He knows when we have a problem and when we are sad. Just as He helped the poor lady and her son in the story of Elisha, He hears us when we pray and He will help us.

Story 2: Elisha prays for a lady to have a baby. 2 Kings 4:1-7

Elisha would often go to a place called Shunem, to visit a family. One day the lady said to her husband, "Elisha is God's helper. Please, could we build a little room upstairs for him? We could put a bed in it, and a table, a chair and a lamp-stand. When he visits Shunem he could sleep there."

One day Elisha came to Shunem again. He said to his servant, "Go and see if the lady needs anything. I would like to help her. She has been very kind to me."

The servant went to her. He said, "My master Elisha wants to know if there is anything that he could do for you."

"I don't need anything," she said, "I have all I need."

But I have no children. I would really like to have a little boy."

The servant told Elisha.

"Go and bring her to me," Elisha said.

The woman came to Elisha. "Thank you for being so kind to me," said Elisha. "I have asked God to give you a little boy. This time next year, you will be holding a son in your arms."

A year later the woman had a baby boy.

One day, some years later, when the boy was quite big, he went out in the field to where his father was working. As he was watching his father, he suddenly cried out, "O! My head! My head hurts."

His father called a servant, "Carry him quickly to his mother. His head is hurting."

The boy sat on his mother's lap, but not long after, he died. His mother carried him up to Elisha's room, put him on the bed and closed the door.

She called her husband, "Quick! Send a servant and a donkey! I must go to the man of God." "Why?" he asked.

"Never mind. Just let me go quickly!"

As fast as she could she rode to the place where Elisha lived. Elisha saw her coming and knew something was wrong.

"Oh, Elisha," she cried, "my son has died. Why has God taken him from me?"

Elisha told his servant to go to the woman's house as fast as he could. "Take my stick" said Elisha, "and hold it over the boy."

The servant hurried on ahead and held Elisha's stick over the boy. He came back to meet Elisha and the woman.

"It's no use" said the servant, "I put the stick on the boy's body, but he didn't wake up."

When Elisha arrived, he went up alone to the room and he prayed to God to give the boy his life again. Then he lay down on the boy until he felt the boy's body begin to get warm.

Elisha got up, walked around the room, then lay down on the boy again. Suddenly the boy sneezed seven times and then opened his eyes. God had given back the boy's life to him.

The woman said thank you to Elisha, and to God for all that he had done.

God understands and cares about our feelings: Sometimes we feel sad or worried. Father God knows how we feel and He cares. We can talk to Him and tell Him how we feel and ask Him to help us and be with us. Father God can help us learn what to do when we feel angry, and how to tell someone. We always tell someone when we feel this way, we do not hurt anyone or anything because we are angry. God can change our feelings when we ask Him to help. He can take away bad feelings, help us to feel peaceful, and help us not to feel sad.

God is our Saviour



Outcomes:

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The events leading up to Easter
- The reason Jesus died on the cross
- That Jesus came alive again and is still alive today

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

The study of my country

Link between “God is our Saviour” and the topics:

John 3:16 For God loved the world so much that He sent his only son so that whoever believes in Him should not die but have everlasting life.

God wants the people of every country in the whole world to come to know Him, so that they can live forever with Him in heaven. People of every nation can come to know the true God by asking Jesus to forgive their sins and then to follow Him. Some people have never heard about Jesus so those who know about Him must tell others. How did Fijians come to know about Jesus?

Values:

Faith; respect for truth; love for all people; thankfulness

God is our Saviour

Easter Week 1: Jesus showed the greatest love, by choosing to die for us.

Jesus chose to die for us. It was part of God's loving plan, so that we could have our sins forgiven.

Memory Verse: God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus, His only son. John 3:16

Events leading up to Easter:

Story 1: Jesus rides into Jerusalem

The friends of Jesus were at a house. Jesus told them to go into the town and look for a donkey. Jesus told them exactly where the donkey would be. It would be a young donkey that had never had anyone ride on its back. Jesus wanted to ride this donkey.

The friends thought that this was not a good idea. When someone rides on a donkey for the first time, it would buck and kick, and the rider would fall off! But the friends did as Jesus said, and brought the donkey to Him.

When Jesus got on the donkey, the donkey did not buck or kick. It was very calm. It knew that Jesus was special. Jesus rode the donkey into the town of Jerusalem.

"Come and see Jesus," said the people in Jerusalem. "He is riding a donkey. He is the one who has done great miracles!"

The people waved branches. They shouted, "Hosanna! Jesus is king!"

Some people put their coats on the road, just like a carpet for a king to walk on. The people wanted Jesus to be the king of their land. They did not know that Jesus would die and come alive again. They did not know that Jesus would be the King of the whole world, and king of people's lives.

Story 2: How Jesus came to live on the earth

Father God made a wonderful place called heaven for people and angels and Himself. But all the people in the whole world made wrong choices except Jesus. So Father God was sorry that no people could come to heaven because there can be no wrong choices in heaven. BUT Jesus said, "Let me go down to earth and I will make it so people can come to heaven. I will take the punishment for all those wrong choices!"

This is how it happened: Long, long ago God the Father asked Jesus His Son to help Him make a beautiful world. And Jesus said, "Yes I will." So, they made our beautiful world and people to live in it. But the people God made did not always obey Him, so God the Father

asked Jesus, "Will You go to the world we made and be born there as a baby?" And Jesus said, "Yes I will."

Father God asked Him, "Will You grow up there and become a man?" Jesus said, "Yes I will."

God asked, "Will You show the people how to love me and obey me?" Jesus said, "Yes I will."

God asked, "Will You touch the people and heal them and feed them?" Jesus said, "Yes I will."

God asked, "Will You live on earth without ever making one wrong choice, without hurting people and hating people?" Jesus said, "Yes I will."

God asked, "Will you forgive all the people who don't like You and don't think You are my Son?" Jesus said, "Yes I will."

Then God asked a very serious question, "My Son, will You be willing to go to the cross and die for the wrong choices of all the people in the world? This will hurt very much." Jesus said, "Yes, I will." And this is what Jesus did for us. Then Jesus asked God His Father, "Will You raise me from the dead to live with You forever?" And His Father answered, "Yes I will."

Story 3: The Last Supper John 13

Jesus went to Jerusalem, for the very last time, to eat the special Passover feast with his friends. The Passover feast is held every year to remind people when God saved the people of Israel from the wicked Pharaoh in Egypt, a long time ago.

Jesus said to his friends, "I want to eat the Passover feast with you before I go away. Go and get it ready for us. Look for a man carrying a water jar and follow him. He will show you where to go."

His friends found the man and followed him. The man went into a house. This was the house Jesus would come to. Jesus' friends knocked at the door and waited.

"Do you have a room for Jesus?" they asked. "Yes, I have a room upstairs. Everything you will need is ready."

"I knew Jesus would come," said the man. He took them upstairs to a big room. They got dinner ready with baskets of flat bread and wine, made from grape juice.

Soon Jesus came with his other friends. They went upstairs to have dinner together. Jesus took the flat bread and broke it. They shared it. They shared the grape juice, too.

Jesus said, "Whenever you do this, remember me."

In church we call this "Communion."

Jesus had twelve special friends. They were all together with Jesus at the feast, but one of them, Judas, was going to do something bad.

Jesus taught Judas and his friends, "Love God with all your heart and love others as much as you love yourself."

Judas loved Jesus, but he loved money more. The temple leaders wanted to get rid of Jesus, so Judas said he would show them where to find Jesus, if they paid him some money.

Judas left the feast and went out into the night to find the temple leaders, and carry out the plan.

Story 4: Praying in the garden John 17

Jesus was sad because he knew that soon he would die on the cross.

God had planned it long ago, and Jesus knew it would happen. He came to earth to take the punishment for all the wrong things people had ever done, or would ever do, and now it was time.

Jesus asked Peter, James and John to go with Him to the olive orchard in the Garden of Gethsemane, to pray.

His friends sat down in the garden while Jesus went a little way off to pray by himself, asking his Heavenly Father to help him to get through what was about to happen.

When Jesus went back his friends were all fast asleep. "Wake up," he said. "Couldn't you watch and pray with me for just one hour?"

Then the soldiers with torches and swords came looking for Jesus. Judas had agreed to show them who Jesus was if they paid him 30 silver coins.

"The person I greet with a kiss on the cheek is Jesus," Judas told the soldiers.

Peter, James and John were shocked when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus. Peter was so angry that he took his sword and cut off a soldier's ear.

"Put away your sword," said Jesus. "People who use swords will get killed by them." He reached out and healed the soldier's ear.

They arrested Jesus and took Him away.

God is our Saviour

Easter Week 2: Jesus died on the cross

Jesus dies on the cross (John chapters 17-19)

Jesus died for us, but came alive again. He is alive to today. Mt. chapters 27 & 28

Memory Verse: I am the living one! I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. Rev. 1:18

Story 1: Jesus dies on the cross (John chapters 17-19)

The Governor, who was the ruler of the country, asked Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus said, "Yes, it is just as you say."

The Governor asked the people, "Should I let Jesus go?"

The crowd said, "No. Let the thief Barabbas go instead."

The Governor didn't know what to do. He knew that Jesus was not a bad man.

His wife said, "I had a bad dream about Jesus last night. You must let Jesus go."

So, the Governor said he would have nothing to do with making the choice – whether to let Jesus go or let him die. He would leave it up to the other leaders.

The soldiers led Jesus into their hall. They put a scarlet robe on him and made him a crown from a ring of thorns.

"Here is the King of the Jews," they joked.

They led him away to die on the cross. Jesus had to carry the cross up the hill. It was very heavy. When he could carry it no longer a man called Simon, carried it for him. Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross, and He died. It was a sad day for Jesus' friends. But they did not know that God had a wonderful surprise for them, and they would not be sad for long.

Story 2: Jesus is alive! (Matthew 27 & 28)

After Jesus died, a rich man named Joseph, took Jesus' body. He gently wrapped it in cloths and then took the body to a special cave-tomb.

One of Jesus' friends named Mary watched as a heavy stone was placed over the door to seal it shut. The leaders sent guards to watch the body to make sure no one took Jesus body. But early Sunday morning there was a big earthquake. An angel came from heaven and rolled the stone away. The guards saw the angel and were so afraid that they fell down on the ground.

Mary came to the cave-tomb early that morning. She saw that the stone was not in front of it. She saw an angel there.

“Jesus is not here,” said the angel. “He is alive! Go and tell his friends that they will get to see him again!”

Mary ran back to the friends to tell them the wonderful news.

Story 3: Jesus appears to His friends (Matthew 28 & 29; John 21)

Mary told Peter and John that Jesus was alive! They ran quickly to the tomb to see for themselves. They found the stone rolled away from the door and the grave clothes were empty.

Not long after, two men were walking along the road talking together. They were disappointed that Jesus had died. They thought He was the promised One that the Bible had told about. If He was, then why should He die?

Then Jesus, who was alive again, came and walked along the road with them. He explained things about Himself that were told in the Bible in earlier times. At first, they didn't know it was Jesus, but as they listened to Jesus, they knew that this was Him! It had been told long ago that He would die and come alive again, and here He was, walking right beside them!

One evening some of Jesus' friends were in a room with the door closed. Suddenly Jesus appeared. They were glad, and believed, when they saw Jesus alive! One of the friends named Thomas was not with them. When the other friends told Thomas that Jesus was alive, Thomas did not believe it. But on another evening, when they were all together, Jesus came again. This time Thomas was there. Jesus showed Thomas the scars on His hands where He was nailed to the cross. Thomas now believed. He knelt at the feet of Jesus and said, “My Lord and my God.”

A short time later, some of Jesus' disciples were fishing at night. They sailed out in their boat and threw their nets into the water. They waited and waited, but they did not catch anything.

Early in the morning they saw someone standing on the shore. The man called, “Have you caught any fish?”

“No,” they called back.

“Throw your net on the other side of the boat,” said the man.

So they did, and their nets were soon full of fish. John looked at Peter and said, “It's Jesus!”

Jesus made a little fire on the beach and cooked fish for breakfast. “Come and have something to eat,” said Jesus, and He ate breakfast with them.

They were so happy. Jesus was alive!

After the story: Discuss various aspects of Jesus being alive in our lives too!

Jesus is alive and is with us today. Jesus helps us in our lives today. This is how we know that Jesus is alive today: Jesus is with us when we are in danger or in trouble; Jesus provides the things we need; Jesus helps us when we are sick or sad.

God is our Saviour

Easter Week 3: Jesus goes back to heaven

Jesus went up to Heaven. He is now with Father God, praying for us. Matthew 28 & Acts 1

Memory Verse: Jesus said, "I am always with you." Matthew 28:20

The ascension of Jesus: Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11

Forty days after the Sunday morning when Jesus came alive, it was time for him to go back to his Father in heaven. He and his disciples climbed up the Mount of Olives.

And while his friends were standing there, on top of the hill, Jesus went straight up into heaven, in a cloud.

The disciples were so surprised. They stood looking up into the sky.

They had seen Jesus go up into heaven with their very own eyes!

Then two angels appeared and said, "One day Jesus will come back again exactly the same way you have just seen him go up to heaven."

Jesus had told the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for Holy Spirit to come and give them power. Then they were to tell other people, everywhere, all they had seen him do.

So the disciples went straight back to Jerusalem, to wait for the Holy Spirit to come.

Then they began to tell people everywhere the good news about Jesus.

If Jesus has gone back to Heaven, how can He be with us today?

Because Jesus lived on earth, He knows what it's like to be a person and He understands our needs. He has gone back to Heaven, but He has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us. When Jesus was on earth, He had a body like you and me. The Holy Spirit who is in the world now is invisible. The Holy Spirit, like Jesus, is also God and He is with us now. How can Jesus still help people today?

What is prayer, and how do we pray? Prayer is talking to God. We can ask Him for the things we need, but let's not forget to thank Him for the things we have, and thank Him when He answers our prayers.

God is Pure and Holy

(4 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The importance of making right choice
- The meaning of the word 'obey'.
- That God has a plan for our lives.
- That God understands how we feel

Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Light and colour

Link between "God is Pure and Holy" the topics:

The Bible uses the symbol of light to represent God's goodness and purity. "Walk in the light as He is in the light," 1 John 1:7

Values:

Honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; goodness, holiness

God is Pure and Holy

Week 1: Jesus helps us to do what is right.

The conversion of Saul Acts 9

Memory Verse: God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

Story 1: Saul becomes Paul Acts 9

After Jesus went back to Heaven, the disciples told many people about Jesus. But it was dangerous! The same leaders that put Jesus on the cross, hated anyone who spoke about Jesus. They tried to catch them and put them in jail. One of these leaders was Saul. Saul didn't understand that Jesus was God's son.

One day he decided to take a trip to the big city of Damascus, thinking that he might be able to catch some of Jesus' followers. As he was going along the road to Damascus, all of a sudden, a very bright light shone down from heaven.

Saul got such a fright that he fell to the ground. Then he heard a voice from heaven saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you working so hard to stop my plans."

"Who are you?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus," said the voice.

"Go into the city and you will find out what to do."

When the light had gone, Saul couldn't see anything. He was blind! His friends who were with him didn't know what had happened. They took him by the hand and led him to the city of Damascus.

In that city lived a good man named Ananias. Jesus came to him in a dream and said, "I want you to go and find a man called Saul. I want you to help him."

Ananias found Saul. He touched Saul and said, "Jesus sent me so you could see again. Jesus wants you to be one of His friends."

Right away Saul could see again. Saul was a changed man. Love for Jesus filled his heart. He wanted everyone to know about Jesus. And later, God changed his name to Paul, and for the rest of his life he told others about Jesus.

Making right choices

Only Jesus can change a life like Saul's. He can help us to make right choices.

What are some right choices we can make? e.g. always wanting to be first. God wants us to think of the other person and do what is best for them. Sometimes you can be first and that's OK. But when

you are not first, let it be OK that someone else is first. How will you choose to treat someone else who is first? Will you let them be first, or will you push ahead so you can be first? Which way is what God would want us to choose? What are some other right choices? e.g. sharing, waiting a turn while someone else talks, not hitting a person if they do something 'against' us. Pray that Jesus will help us to do what is right.

The Bible tells us that light is like God's goodness. God's light can shine inside us and help us to make right choices. Can you think of some good choices we can make? Evil does not like light. When the light of Jesus came to Saul, the darkness in his life was gone, because he chose to follow Jesus.

Story 2: Paul and Silas in jail Acts 16:16-40

This story shows how Paul went on to be a servant of God.

Paul had a good friend named Silas. Paul and Silas went from town to town telling everyone the good news about Jesus Christ the son of God. It was the rule that no one could talk about Jesus, or they would be put into jail. They soon got arrested.

Paul and Silas did not worry. They knew that God was with them everywhere. Even in jail! At night they sang songs and prayed. The other prisoners and guards listened to their songs and prayers.

One night there was an earthquake. The chains on the prisoners fell off and all the jail doors opened. If the prisoners escaped the guards would be in trouble. But Paul and Silas did not run away. The guard was so pleased that they were still there.

"God is with us and we want you to know about Jesus, God's Son," they told the guard.

"Tell me about him," the guard said.

Paul explained how God sent his son to earth. He healed and helped people, then died on a cross. Now he is alive again, just as God had promised. Just believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son. You too will become God's friend."

"I do believe that Jesus is God's Son," said the guard.

The Guard told all his family about Jesus. They all listened to Paul and Silas and they all believed in Jesus too. Like Paul and Silas they were now God's children.

The earth is special

The earth is the only planet where people can live. God made it that way. Why is the earth special? Jesus came to earth! The earth is turning, giving us times of light and dark. When our part of the earth is facing towards the sun it is day. When is it away from the sun it is dark. (Use a torch to represent the sun and a ball for the earth.)

God is Pure and Holy

Week 2: God Our Father wants us to obey Him.

Obeying God's way is the best choice we can make. Gen 3; Gen 6-9

Memory Verse: This is how we show our love for God: we keep His commands. 1 John 5:1

Revise the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Sadly, Adam and Eve chose to disobey what God had told them. This made Father God sad, and He had to send them out of the Garden. Who did Adam and Eve choose to obey instead of God? The snake was really God's enemy the devil, who disguised himself as a snake. Satan is actually an evil angel, and still is in the world today, trying to make people make wrong choices.

How do we know what and who to obey? The Bible is God's instruction book, and in it He tells us how to live the right way. When we obey, God is joyful, but when we disobey, He is sad. If we do the wrong thing, God does not stop loving us. He still loves us when we make wrong choices. He never changes from loving us even when we disobey Him. Who should we obey? Parents? Teachers? Strangers?

Story: Noah Genesis 6-9

After Adam and Eve disobeyed, then all their children and grandchildren disobeyed too. The world became a bad place, full of fighting and killing. But there was one man, Noah, who listened to Father God and obeyed Him. God chose Noah and his family to build the ark and bring in the animals so that they could be saved from the flood. Because Noah obeyed, he and his family were kept safe.

God made a beautiful world, and made the first people, Adam and Eve. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the world was not as beautiful, and people started to do wicked things. They started to forget about God.

Everyone in the world forgot about God except Noah and his family. God wanted to make a new start.

God said to Noah, "It is going to rain. Build a big boat with rooms for a mother and father of every animal."

Noah did what God told him to do. It was a VERY big boat. His family helped him too. Then they painted it all over with a special water-proof mixture. The boat was called "Noah's Ark."

When Noah had finished, a father and mother of each animal went into Noah's Ark. Noah did not have to find them. They just came, because God sent them.

God shut the door and it began to rain. The water got deeper and deeper. But Noah, his family and the animals were safe and dry inside the Ark.

After 40 days and nights the rain stopped. Noah opened the window of the ark. He saw water everywhere. He sent a bird to see if there was any dry land. But the bird came back. It could not find a place to rest. Then after a while he sent the bird out again. This time it

brought back an olive leaf. The water was going down. Then he sent a bird out for the third time. This time it did not come back. It was time to leave the ark. Everyone could go outside again!

Noah and his family thanked God for keeping them safe and dry. God made a beautiful rainbow in the sky. They had never seen a rainbow before! It was a sign of God's promise that He would never again cover the whole earth with water.

After the story:

Why did people in the world do bad things? Why did God have to send the flood? Who obeyed? How did God save the animals? After the flood God sent a rainbow of promise – that He would never again send a flood to cover the whole earth. Discuss how God keeps all His promises

God is Pure and Holy

Week 3: God has a plan for us.

God loves us even when we make wrong choices.

Memory verse: Be kind to one another, forgiving one another, just as God has forgiven you.

Eph.4:32

Story 1: Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus had lots of money, but he was not a nice man. His job was to collect money for the government, but he took too much. When he took money from people, he took some money for himself as well. That was stealing. He was not kind and nobody liked Zacchaeus.

One day Jesus was coming to town and everyone went to see him. Zacchaeus was too small to see over the crowd and no one would let him through. He quickly ran ahead and climbed up a tree. He waited for Jesus to go past. Now he could see Jesus.

Jesus stopped under the tree. He looked up.

“Zacchaeus come down,” said Jesus, “I am coming to your house today.”

People said, “Doesn’t Jesus know that Zacchaeus is a bad man?”

When Jesus met Zacchaeus at his house He said, “From now on I want you to do what is good and right, Zacchaeus.”

Zacchaeus was sorry that he had taken people’s money. He paid it all back.

“I love Jesus now,” said Zacchaeus. “Now I will do what is good and right.”

Jesus loved Zacchaeus, even though he had done wrong things. That didn’t mean that Jesus liked what he was doing. No, Jesus called him and said that he must change, and start making right choices. What wrong choices did Zacchaeus make? How did he change?

What to do when I do something wrong: We say sorry to the person we have done wrong to, and then we try to fix the problem.

Story 2: The son who left home, Luke 15:11-32

There was a man who had two sons. The sons were grown up. One son said, "I want to leave home, Dad. Please give me some money so that I can go to the city to live."

"O.K.," said the father. "I will give you some money." So the son went to the city.

He had a good time in the city. He had lots of fun, but he did not always do good things. He spent all his money. He had no money left.

"I will go and get a job," said the son. "I will go and look after some pigs."

So the son went to get a job with pigs. He did not like working with pigs. It was very smelly and dirty.

"I would really like to go home," said the son to himself. "But will Dad want me home again? I have spent all his money. He may be very cross with me."

The son went home. Was the father angry with the son? Did he tell him to go away? No! The father was very happy to see his son. He wanted his son home again. He gave him a big hug. He gave him a party!

God wants us to forgive people who do wrong things to us, just like the father forgave his son. God wants us to forgive others just as he forgives us.

After the story:

What wrong choices did the son make? Do you think the father should have forgiven him?

We can ask God to help us forgive when someone does something bad to us. Sometime it is hard to forgive a person who does something wrong to us. We may feel sad, but God can help us when we pray.

God is Pure and Holy

Week 4: God understands how we feel.

God Our Father understands our feelings because He has feelings too. God helped Joseph when he was feeling sad. Genesis chapters 37-50

Memory verse: Trust in Him at all times, Ps.62:8

Story 1: Joseph and his coat of many colours Genesis 37

Joseph had ten big brothers and one little brother. He loved God and he loved his family. His father loved Joseph very much. He gave him a special present. It was a new coat with lots of colours. Joseph showed his new coat to his brothers. Joseph's brothers were annoyed. They wanted a colourful new coat too!

One day Joseph had a dream. He dreamt that the eleven brothers were bowing down to him, just like bundles of wheat. He told the brothers about it. Now they were really angry. They told Joseph to go away. Joseph's brothers were not kind to him.

The big brothers went to look after the sheep. One day his dad told Joseph to find them. Joseph put his new coat on straight away. He always obeyed his father.

It was a long way to go. When he saw his brothers, he called out and waved. But his brothers were still angry. They were not kind and took his coat away. Then they put him down inside a big hole.

Joseph was sad, but he remembered that God was always with him. The brothers saw men coming on camels. They wanted a boy to help King Pharaoh. The brothers got Joseph out and sold him.

The men took Joseph away to Egypt. Joseph prayed and asked God to help him. He knew that God is always with us and wants us to do what is good and right. And so Joseph was good in Egypt. But one day someone told a lie about Joseph. They said he did something bad, but in fact, he did not do anything bad. Joseph was put in jail for something he didn't do.

Think about it: How did the brothers feel when Joseph was given a coat like that and not them? How did Joseph feel when he was put in a pit and taken away to a far land?

Story 2: Joseph in jail Genesis 39-41

Joseph was in jail a long time but God had not forgotten him. God had a special plan for him.

There was a man in the jail who had a dream. The man didn't know what the dream meant. He told Joseph about it. Joseph said, "God can tell the meaning of dreams. I will ask Him." So Joseph prayed, and God showed him what the dream meant.

One night, Pharaoh had a dream. He saw seven fat cows and seven thin cows. The thin cows ate up the fat, well fed cows, but the thin cows still looked hungry. The next night he dreamed about seven fat stalks of corn and seven thin stalks of corn. The thin corn ate the fat corn, but still looked hungry.

Pharaoh got all his wise men and magicians, with their magic powers, to find out what the dreams meant. But none of their magic worked. Then Pharaoh's best servant told him about a prisoner called Joseph, who could understand the meaning of dreams.

"Send for him at once," commanded Pharaoh.

Pharaoh told Joseph about the dream. Joseph prayed to God about the dream. "God you are always with me. Please show me what Pharaoh's dream means," prayed Joseph.

God told Joseph what the dream meant. God said, "There will be a great harvest for seven years, when plenty of food will grow. Then there will be seven years of famine, when no food will grow. Tell Pharaoh that he needs to put a good man in charge of storing extra food, before the famine comes." Joseph told Pharaoh what God had said.

"There is no one better than you," said Pharaoh. "You will be in charge of storing the food, so that no one ever goes hungry."

Joseph became the most important man in Egypt.

Story 3: Joseph is kind to his brothers Genesis 42-46

Joseph's brothers had been unkind to him. Years before, they had sold him to King Pharaoh in Egypt.

Now Joseph was King Pharaoh's best helper. He knew God was with him in Egypt.

Joseph helped King Pharaoh understand the meaning of his dream. Joseph told him to get lots and lots of corn because soon people in other countries wouldn't have enough to feed their families."

Joseph's family lived a long way off, but even in their part of the land there was no food. Joseph's brothers had no corn left to eat. They were hungry, so their dad sent them to buy corn from King Pharaoh.

Joseph was put in charge of giving out the food. The brothers did not know this. Would Joseph be kind to his brothers? Yes! Joseph gave corn to his brothers and gave some to them to take home to his dad.

He forgave his brothers for being unkind. Joseph loved God and he looked after his family. God wants us to be kind to everyone, even if people are not kind to us first.

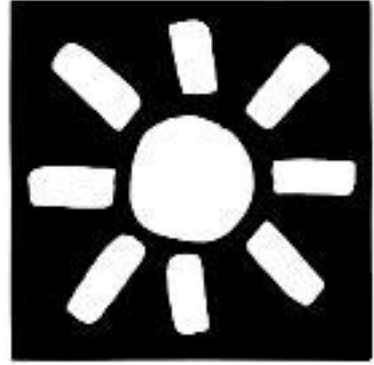
After the story:

How did Joseph feel when his family came to visit?? Do you think it was hard for him to forgive his brothers? Joseph chose to forgive his brothers even when they had been so cruel to him. He knew that God understood and trusted him instead of trying to get even and hurt his brothers. Sometimes we want to get even with someone who has done wrong to us. Maybe we say, "I will not talk to that person anymore!" But what would God want us to do?

Prayer: Thank Father God that He understands when we feel sad or happy. Pray for anyone you may know who is sad.

God is Creator

(5 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God created the world in 6 days
- The beautiful world that God created has been spoiled because people disobeyed God.
- God has power over His creation.
- Jesus has power over life and death.
- God cares for His creation, and He cares for us like a shepherd.

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Land animals and mini-beasts

Link between “God is Creator” the classroom topics:

God created all living things. He created the animals on Day 6 of the Creation.

Values

Respect for truth; faith, care for the environmental

God is Creator

Week 1: God created the world in six days

God's original creation was perfect.

All living creatures are totally dependent on God. Matthew 10:29

Memory Verse: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, Genesis 1:1

Story: The 6-day creation revision Genesis 1 and Genesis 2:1-4

The first words in the Bible tell us that in the beginning God made the heavens and earth. At first the earth was covered with water and it was dark.

On Day 1 God made day and night. God said it was good.

On Day 2 God made sky and sea. God said it was good.

On Day 3 God made land, plants and trees. God said it was good.

On Day 4 God made sun, moon and stars. God said it was good.

On Day 5 God made fish and birds. God said it was good.

On Day 6 God made land animals and people. God said it was good.

On Day 7 God rested and everything God had made was good.

After the story:

Ask the student to think about the beautiful things in God's creation. When God first made the world, even the animals we know to be ferocious were once peaceful vegetarians. (Genesis 1:29-30)

Even dinosaurs such as the great tyrannosaurus rex lived peacefully with others. Snakes and spiders were not poisonous. Animals such as rats and flies did not spread diseases. Fruits and vegetables did not rot or get eaten by insects. People, animals and plants did not grow old. No one became sick. Everything was perfect, just as God is perfect.

God made the earth, the sun, the moon, the stars and planets out of nothing! Who was there before the world was made? (Father God, His Son Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the angels.)

Why did God make animals?

Animals help us, and make us happy. Think of some of the very special things that animals can do.....frogs hop, kangaroos jump, cows give milk, sheep give wool, dogs do tricks, kittens chase string. Look at pictures of animals. God loves the animals that He made. He wants us to love and care for them too. How should we look after our animals? We do not let dogs and cats wander around at night. They could get into a fight or hit by a car. We wash dogs to keep them clean and we remember to give them food and water. We love them, talk to them and pat them.

Matthew 6:26 tells us that if God cares for the birds and flowers, how much more will He care for us. How are people different from animals? (We have a heart to love God.)

God is Creator

Week 2: What happened to God's beautiful world?

The pain, suffering and negatives aspects of the creation as we now know it, were not part of the original creation, and not caused by God, but man's disobedience.

Memory Verse: Praise the Lord! He is always good. His love never fails. Psalm 136:1

Story: No Longer Perfect Genesis 2:4-25 & 3.

God made the world, and the sun and the stars, all in six days. And then on the seventh day He had a rest.

Do you remember what He made on each day?

On day 6 He made the land animals, and also His most special creation, people. When God made Adam and Eve, He wanted them to be His special friends. God made them to be friends with God. He made them so that they could love God and talk to God. This is something the animals cannot do.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed, they lost the special friendship they once had with God. However, many years later, Jesus came to earth as a human. Because of His death on the cross, people could ask to be forgiven for all the wrong things they do, and they could be friends with God once again.

God could have created Adam and Eve like robots. He could have made them to think and act exactly as HE wanted them to. However, God did not do this. He gave them a mind to think with. He gave them the ability to make choices. They could choose between right and wrong.

Adam and Eve knew the right thing to do. They knew that God had told them that it was wrong to eat a certain kind of fruit, but they chose to disobey.

It was then that sickness, sadness and death came into the world. These things were never part of God's plan. When God created the world, He said that it was GOOD. That means that it was perfect. These things came into the world because people did not obey God. People can try to be good, but they can never be as perfect as God asks them to be. However, when we ask Jesus to forgive us, we can be friends with God. One day there will be no more sickness and death, because Satan will be destroyed forever, and people who know Jesus will live with Him forever.

Because God is good all the time, He could not have people as His friends if they disobey. Adam and Eve disobeyed, so this meant they could no longer be God's friend. But God sent Jesus to die on the cross. When He did this, it meant that everyone who loves Jesus can be a friend of God.

What happened to the world after Adam and Eve's disobeyed?

Why was the world now a different place? What had entered the world?

What effects did sin have upon...

ANIMALS

- such as lions, some dinosaurs, and wolves? (They started to kill other animals for food.)
- such as giraffe and deer? (They became scared and needed to protect themselves.)
- such as snakes, flies and mosquitoes? (They brought poisonous bites and stings, and carried germs and viruses.)

PLANTS

- Such as fruits, vegetables, cereal crops, flower and trees. (They could now rot and go bad.)

PEOPLE

- Were they still close to God?
- How did they treat one another?
- Why was it harder now for them to look after God's creation?

GOD

How did He feel about all this?

God cares about His creation and is sad that has been spoiled. One day He will make it perfect again. What can we do to look after God's creatures?

How can we be a friend of God? We can say sorry to God when we disobey Him. We can ask Jesus to forgive us and be our friend. Then we are friends with God, because Jesus is God!

God is Creator

Week 3: God has power over His Creation

God Our Father has power over creation because he created it!

Memory verse: Jesus Christ is the Creator who made everything in heaven and earth, the things we can see and the things we can't. Col.1:16

Story 1: Jesus stills the storm Luke 8:22-25

One lovely evening Jesus and some of his friends got into a boat to row across the lake. Jesus had been busy all day, teaching people about God and he was very tired. He lay down and went to sleep.

The wind began to blow and the waves got bigger and bigger. The little boat bobbed up and down. Jesus friends got scared.

"Jesus wake up. Help us! The waves are too big, and we are not safe," they said.

Jesus stood up in the boat. "Wind and waves be still," he said. And straight away the wind and waves stopped!

Jesus' friends were surprised. "Jesus can even tell the storm to stop. Only God can do that!" they said.

They knew that they were safe with Jesus. The Bible says, "When I am afraid, I will trust in you."

After the story:

Jesus just spoke, and the big waves, and the wind stopped. Jesus wanted His disciples to put their trust in Him, even though they were afraid. We can call out to Jesus too when we feel afraid. He can calm the storm for us.

Jesus was there in the beginning, creating the earth with the Father. That's why He has power over the wind and weather.

When were you afraid? Ask the student when they might be afraid, e.g. being in the dark, feeling alone, being lost. What did the disciples do? Thank God that He is always with us and He always hears us when we call to Him.

Story 2: Peter walks on water Matt 14:22-33

Jesus sent his helpers and Peter across to the other side of the lake, in a boat. He was tired. He wanted to be by himself to rest and pray. He had been talking to lots of people, all day.

Soon, the wind began to blow and the waves got bigger and bigger! Peter and his friends were getting scared.

"If only Jesus was here," they said.

Then they saw someone coming towards them, walking on top of the water! No one could walk on water like that! They were scared.

Jesus called out, "Don't be scared, it is only me."

Peter couldn't believe his eyes and said, "If it really is you, Jesus, then tell me to come to you on the water."

He got out of the boat and began to walk, on the water, to Jesus.

While he kept looking at Jesus, he was safe.

But when Peter looked at the stormy sea he was scared and began to sink down in the water.

"Help me, Jesus," he cried!

Jesus reached out his hand and caught Peter.

Even though the wind blew and the waves crashed around him, while he kept looking at Jesus, Peter was safe.

They got back into the boat and the storm stopped.

Remember, that when you keep looking at Jesus you will be safe. Jesus will help you when you are scared, too.

After the story:

What usually happens when we try to walk on water? Jesus made water to be a liquid. But on this day, He made it so that Peter could walk on it! How did Peter feel? What did He do? How did Jesus help him?

God is Creator

Week 4: Jesus is the giver of life

Jesus has power to give life because He created all living things.

Memory Verse: I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Jn 14:6

Story: Jesus brought Lazarus back to life John 11:1-45

Jesus was in Jerusalem when someone came to tell him that his friend Lazarus, from the town of Bethany, was sick.

Two days later Jesus and his friends started off to Bethany, to see him, but Jesus knew that Lazarus had died.

Martha ran to meet Jesus. "If you had been here," she said, "my brother would not have died. But I know, it's not too late. You can do anything."

"Lazarus will live," Jesus said to her. "Go and get your sister, Mary."
Jesus often stayed with Martha and Mary and their brother, Lazarus.

Jesus was sad. Lazarus was his friend.
They went to the cave where Lazarus was buried.
"Take the stone away," said Jesus.
"But, he has been dead four days," they told him.

"If you believe, then you will see what God can do," he replied.
"Lazarus! come out!" called Jesus.
Lazarus came out, still wrapped in bandages.

Martha and Mary unwrapped him. They were so happy that Lazarus was alive!
Many, who saw this miracle with their own eyes, believed that Jesus was God's Son.
Jesus was showing how great and powerful God is through this miracle.

God is in charge of life and death

Jesus has power over death. When we are old and die, then we can go to be with Him in heaven forever! This is called eternal life. This is for people who believe in Jesus.

God not only gives life, but also thinks that all the things He made are very important. God wants us to help him look after them – the living things and the non-living things. How do you think He wants us to treat things He has made? To care for something or someone is showing respect. How can we show respect for God's world?

As God's special creation each person is valuable. How then should we treat others. We can speak kindly, listen and share. It doesn't matter whether a person is old or young, or from which country

they come. They should be treated with respect. God also wants us to care for and show respect to animals and plants. How should we treat animals? How do we care for plants?

Jesus brings a little girl back to life John 11:1 - 45

A little girl, the daughter of a man called Jairus, was very sick. Jairus hurried to find Jesus. "Please come quickly. My little girl is very sick. I know you can make her better," he said to Jesus

They were walking to Jairus' house, when someone came to tell them it was too late. The little girl had died.

It is no use Jesus going now. But Jesus kept walking. A crowd followed to see what He would do.

When Jesus got to Jairus' house everyone was crying. The little girl was only 12 years old. They were all sad.

Jesus went into the room where the little girl lay dead. He took her by the hand and said, "Little girl, I say to you, get up."

The girl sat up straight away. She was alive!
Jesus said, "Give her something to eat."

It was a miracle!
Jairus had seen Jesus make his dead daughter come alive again!
Only Jesus could do such a miracle!

God is Creator

Week 5: God looks after all His creatures

God cares for the animals and plants He created, and that He cares for us even more.

Memory verse: The Lord is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need. Psalm 23:1

Story: The Lord is my Shepherd

Do you know what a shepherd does? A shepherd looks after sheep.

In the land of Israel, in Bible times, shepherds didn't stay in one place. They took their sheep here and there, looking for the best grass, shade from the sun, and cool water for them to drink. In those days there were no fences and sheep were not kept in paddocks.

The shepherd also kept the sheep from danger. If wild animals came, the shepherd would use his special shepherd's crook, or staff, to chase the animals away. If a sheep got caught in a prickly bush, or went into a cave, the shepherd would get him out. A shepherd loves his sheep.

There is a song written in the Bible, called "The Lord is my shepherd". That means that God looks after us just like a shepherd. He provides us with food and water. He also keeps us from danger, just as the shepherd keeps his sheep from danger. Jesus loves us too, just as the shepherd loves his sheep.

The Lord is my shepherd.

He gives me everything I need.

He leads me to where the grass is green.

He leads me to cool water.

He helps me when I am sad.

He helps me to do what is right.

Even when I am in danger, I will not be afraid

Because He is with me.

Just as the shepherd uses his staff to protect the sheep,

The Lord protects me and makes me feel brave.

He gives me joy.

Make a book, "The Lord is my Shepherd".

God is Wise (4 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:
God our Father wants children to grow in wisdom, as Jesus did.

Wisdom is “the ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding”.

A good definition for the children to learn: “Wisdom is knowing the right thing to do, and doing it.”

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Healthy food choices

Link between “God is Wise” and the topic:

Students will be encouraged to make wise choices, including healthy food choices.

Values:

Responsibility, fairness and respect for truth and justice, goodness, discernment

God is Wise

Week 1: God Our Father wants us to grow as Jesus grew.

When Jesus was a boy, He grew just like us. The bible says that Jesus also grew in wisdom, (knowing the right things to do, and doing the right thing.) God wants us to grow in wisdom too by making right choices, including right choices about healthy living. Lk.2:40;52

Memory Verse: Jesus grew to become strong and wise. Luke 2:40

Introduction to the story: Jesus grew as we grow

The Bible tells us that Jesus grew in his body, and at the same time, He learned how to read and do maths. He learned how to get along with others, and in He learned about His Heavenly Father God. Jesus was born as a baby, to his mother Mary and father Joseph. (Yes – Jesus had a heavenly father and father on earth. We celebrate His birth at Christmas), but Jesus didn't stay a baby. He grew to be a little boy and learned to walk and talk just as all babies do. What other things do babies and toddlers have to learn?

Story: Jesus as a boy

Jesus grew up in the town of Nazareth, in the land of Israel. His father Joseph was a carpenter. That meant he made things from wood. Joseph taught Jesus how to make things with wood. Mary, His mother, took care of Him. She taught Him how to help at home, about the plants and animals, and she told Him about heaven and about God.

As Jesus grew up, He learned to read and write. In his free time, He walked with his brothers and sisters through the streets of Nazareth and in the fields, where He learned about people and about God's creation.

He saw the shepherds go into the fields with their flocks and watched the good shepherds who loved and cared for their sheep. He watched the people who worked at growing grapes. He saw them trim the vines that would grow the fruit.

Jesus watched as the farmers plant their seed. Some seeds fell on the pathway and were quickly eaten by birds. Some fell among thorns; some seeds fell on hard soil and were dried by the sun and some seeds fell in good earth. They grew into good healthy plants.

Jesus learned from everything around Him. God put wisdom in His heart.

Jesus was happy, like any other boy. But He was also different from the others. The greatest difference was He only did what God wanted Him to do. He never did anything wrong. He was like other people, except that He had no sin. Sin is when we do things that God does not like. Jesus did not sin.

When Jesus was growing up, the people of Nazareth did not know that Jesus was the Son of God. They only knew that He was "Jesus, the son of Joseph, the son of the carpenter." They did not know that God in heaven was His real father.

Jesus know how we feel

Jesus knows how we feel and is able to help us to do what is right. What are some of the things that God would want us to do? Would He want you to share with others and think of others, just as Jesus did when he was young.

What does wisdom mean?

Wisdom is being wise – not just being clever, but knowing how to make the best choice.

We can make wise choices about eating healthy food, and not eating rubbish. Although we may not like all the food we're given, our bodies need healthy food to grow and we can learn to try and eat at least some of our food because it helps us grow. We can say thank you to God for our food...even if it's not our favourite!

God is Wise

Week 2: God Our Father helps us to obey Him.

The wisest choice we can make is to do what God wants us to do.

The story of Moses and how He did what God wanted him to do. The job that God had for Moses was very hard, but God promised to be with him and help him.

Memory Verse: I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me strength and power. Phil.4:13

Story Part 1: Moses as a baby, Exodus 1 & 2

There was a new king over the land of Israel. He was an Egyptian king called a pharaoh, but was not a good king, like the king in the days of Joseph. He was mean, and made the people of Israel do very hard work, with no rest. He did not even want them to have boy babies. The people of Israel were afraid of the mean king.

A lady had a baby boy and wanted to hide him from the king. She had a daughter called Miriam.

“Miriam, we will have to hide our baby,” said the mother.

“Why, Mummy?” Miriam asked.

“The king says he will kill every baby boy who is an Israelite,” the mother answered. “We live in Egypt now, but our fathers and grandfathers came from Israel many years ago.”

“Come now and help me hide our lovely baby. We must save him from the angry king. God said I must hide him.”

They gathered long grasses, called reeds, that grew beside the river and wove a strong basket. They floated it on the river among the reeds. It was so thick that the water could not get in the basket. Mother put the baby in the basket and hid it among the reeds.

“Miriam, please stay here and watch over our baby,” said the mother.

Miriam stayed nearby and looked after her baby brother.

One day the daughter of the king came to swim in the river. She found the basket with the baby in it.

“Come and see!” she called to her maids. “There’s a little baby in the basket. I want to take him home and have him for my own. I’ll call him Moses.”

Miriam came out from the reeds and spoke to the princess. “Would you like me to get a nurse for him?” she asked.

She ran home to get her mother. The princess was glad to have a nurse for Moses and she went to the palace to care for her baby.

God was pleased. He wanted Moses to live because He had a special plan for his life.

Story Part 2: God calls Moses: The burning bush, Exodus 3 & 4

When Moses grew up, he left the palace. He did not like to see how the king made his people work so hard. He went to another land and there he took care of sheep.

One day while he was watching the sheep, he saw a bush covered with fire. But it didn't burn up.

When he went closer to see the bush, God called him.

"Moses, I want you to go to the king. Tell him to let my people, the Israelites, to go free."

Moses was afraid. But God said, "I will be with you. I promise I will bring the people out of Egypt. I will lead them to a special land."

So God said, "Throw down the stick you are holding."

Moses threw it down. It turned into a snake.

God said, "Pick it up again."

Moses picked it up and it turned back into a stick.

God said, "I will use miracles like this to show the king that I am with you."

So Moses went back to Egypt. He told the people that God would take them out of Egypt. He would lead them to a new land.

Story Part 3: Let my people go Exodus 5 – 15

Moses went to the pharaoh King.

"God has sent me to tell you to let God's people go," he told the King Pharaoh.

"No! They are my best workers," Pharaoh said. "I will not let them go."

So God sent frogs, and mosquitoes and flies and grasshoppers to Egypt to make King Pharaoh change his mind. He also sent a hail storm.

Pharaoh said, "I had better let those people go," he said, "then all these horrible things might stop happening to me."

But he changed his mind and wouldn't let the people go.

God told Moses that He would send a sickness, and the oldest boy in every family would die, but not the Israelite boys. He told the Israelites to kill a lamb, and put the blood above their doors. When they did this, the sickness would pass over their house. And it did. No Israelite boys died.

But Pharaoh's son died. He said, "This is enough. "I will let the people go."

The Israelites were ready. They had packed up all their things. They started moving towards the Red Sea.

But King Pharaoh sent his soldiers to chase after the people.

"Hurry and bring them back. I need them to do all my work!" he said.

The people came to the Red Sea. The water was deep and they could not get across. The soldiers were nearly catching up and the people didn't know what to do.

God sent a big, strong wind. It blew a path in the sea. Everyone walked safely across the dry path, to the other side. Then the sea rolled back again, and the soldiers who were chasing them did not make it across.

Story Part 4: A long journey to a new land Exodus 16 & 17

Moses took the children of Israel from Egypt into the desert. God went ahead, in a tall cloud, every day.

Wherever the cloud stopped, the people stopped and set up their tents, until the cloud moved again.

God was with them, every night, in a tall pillar of fire. God kept them safe.

Sometimes the cloud would stop for a long time. Then the cloud would move. "Follow the cloud," someone would shout.

Everyone would hurry about, packing up their beds and pulling down their tents. It was a busy time.

But God's presence, in the cloud, only moved as fast as the old people and the little children could walk.

There was no food in the desert, but God provided food. God sent little birds called quail, they could catch and cook to eat.

God also sent sweet bread called manna. They would find it on the ground each morning.

Moses knew that God was always with them and would take them safely, to their new land.

Story Part 5: The Ten Commandments Exodus 19 - 20

The people of Israel were traveling in the desert. They reached a place called Mount Sinai.

Moses climbed up the mountain to talk to God, carrying two big, flat stones, while all the people waited at the bottom of the mountain.

God wrote His rules on the stones. God's rules tell people that God is the only real God to love and trust and how to do what is good and right, to other people.

God gave Moses the rules so that they would know what is the right thing to do and how to live good lives."

God's rules are called the Ten Commandments. Here are the rules He gave to Moses, and to all people who follow Him.

1. No other gods
2. No idols
3. No swearing
4. Keep one day especially for God.
5. Honour your mother and father.
6. Do not kill.
7. Love the person you marry and do not take someone else's wife.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not be jealous of things other people have. Do not want their things for yourself.

Looking back on the life of Moses: What things did God ask him to do that were hard for him? What things might God ask us to do that could be hard for us?

God is Wise

Week 3: God our Father loves us and wants us to talk to Him

God Our Father is always listening.

We can all be good listeners.

Memory Verse: John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Story: The Good Shepherd - The sheep hear His voice. John 10

A shepherd takes care of sheep. The sheep know the shepherd's voice, and they follow where he leads them. The shepherd does not follow behind the sheep, but walks in front of them to show them where to go. The shepherd leads his sheep to find good grass to eat and water to drink.

At night he leads them back to the sheepfold, which has a big wall or fence all around it. The sheep are safe inside the sheepfold, safe from wild animals and thieves. The shepherd stays guard at the entrance to the sheepfold and protects his sheep. The shepherd counts his sheep to make sure that not one is lost.

Each sheep is important to the shepherd. All shepherds care about and protect their sheep. Jesus told us that He is the Good Shepherd, the one who takes care of the sheep. Can anyone guess who the sheep are?

That's right, we are the sheep. Of course, we are not really sheep, but sometimes we can be like sheep.

Sheep don't think about whether there might be danger ahead. They just follow other sheep. This means that sheep will even follow other sheep right over the edge of a cliff! Jesus wants us to follow Him, and not just do what others do, without thinking.

Sheep sometimes go the wrong way and get lost. Yes, people can do that too. People can go away from Jesus. But Jesus, the Good Shepherd will forgive us if we go the wrong way and take us back into His family.

Sheep are not good at protecting themselves. If a wolf comes, they cannot fight the wolf. They are not even fast enough to run away from it. But the Shepherd fights the wolf and keeps it away from the sheep. Jesus, our Good Shepherd keeps our enemy Satan away from us too, when we follow Him.

God wants us to make the wisest choice. That is, to listen to the Good Shepherd, Jesus, and to follow Him.

God listens to us: God Our Father loves to hear our voice, and wants us to talk to Him in prayer and praise. Praise is when we tell God how much we love Him and thank Him for everything He has done. Here is a verse from the Bible that tells us about praising God:

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6

Being a good listener

What do you have to do to 'listen carefully'? (You look at the speaker, pay attention, listen quietly while the other person speaks, and wait for our turn to speak. This is called 'attentive listening'. Listening to others shows that we care, and it's what God our Father wants us to do.

God is Wise

Week 4: God our Father loves us and wants us to listen to Him.

We can listen to God by listening to Bible stories being read to us, and by listening to the instructions of people who are wise. The wisest choice is to listen to what God has to say, and do what He says.

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 3:10 "Speak Lord for your servant is listening."

Story: The boy Samuel (1 Samuel 1)

A lady called Hannah was very sad, because she had no baby. She went to the temple to pray. Eli was God's servant at the temple. He told people about God. Eli prayed for Hannah, that God would give her a baby. God was good to her. She had a baby boy the next year.

"I will call him Samuel, for I asked the Lord for him."

When Samuel was three years old Hannah called him to her. "Samuel, I made a promise to God when you were born. I promised to give you to Him. I love you my son. I wanted you so much, but now it is time for you to go and live with Eli. I will come and visit you every day.

So Hannah took Samuel to Eli, and Samuel lived in the temple with Eli. One night, Samuel was asleep. He was lying on his mat in the temple. He woke up. He heard a voice call him:

"Samuel! Samuel!" said the voice.

"Did Eli call?" Samuel wondered. He ran to Eli. "Yes Eli, here I am," said Samuel.

"I didn't call you, Samuel," said Eli. "Go back to sleep."

But soon the voice came again: "Samuel! Samuel!" Again, Samuel ran to Eli. "Did you call me, Eli?" asked Samuel.

"No, my boy, I did not call you," said Eli. "Go back to sleep."

Then for a third time the voice came again: "Samuel! Samuel!" Again, Samuel ran to Eli and said, "You called me, Eli. Here I am."

"Samuel, it must be the Lord calling you," said Eli. "Go back and listen to Him."

Samuel went back and lay down. "Samuel! Samuel!" came the voice.

"Yes, Lord. I'm listening to you," said Samuel.

The Lord spoke to Samuel. "Tell the people to do good and right things. Then I will help your land and your people."

Samuel listened to God. All his life he told people what God wanted them to do.

Story 2: Mary listened to Jesus Luke 10:38-42

Jesus loved staying at Martha's home in Bethany, with her sister Mary and brother Lazarus. It was a place where Jesus could really relax and rest, away from the crowds of people who followed Him.

Martha loved cooking. As soon as Jesus arrived, she began to prepare a delicious meal for Him and his friends. There was a lot to do and she would need Mary's help, so Martha cheerfully set to work. She hurried back and forth to the table with plates of food, while still making sure that nothing was burning on the stove, or in the oven. But where was Mary? It wasn't fair that she had to do all the work by herself!

Mary was listening to Jesus talk about God's love and His wonderful plan for people everywhere. Mary didn't want to miss a single word. But Martha was getting very annoyed!

"Jesus," Martha said, "Tell Mary not to be so selfish and lazy and make her come and help me. I can't manage so much work by myself."

Jesus loved Martha and He spoke to her gently.

"Martha, Martha, when you serve me, it is your gift to me. Do it because you really want to, with a loving heart and a smile on your face. It is more important that Mary spends time with me, listening to what I have to say."

Martha listened to the wise words Jesus said and went back to her work feeling much happier about what she was doing. She was doing it for Jesus, their good friend that they loved so much.

Revise the meaning of 'attentive listening'.

God is a Servant

(4 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The definition of a 'servant'
- About honouring our parents
- The importance of helping the sick and needy as Jesus did
- How to pray for others
- The Great Commission of Jesus, to tell others about Him

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Community helpers; Languages and messages

Link between "God is a Servant" the topics:

Students will learn the definition of a servant, and learn about people in the community who serve us, such as doctors, nurses, firemen and police. Serving through "the Great Commission", going out to tell people about Jesus, will also be studied. We will look at missionaries who serve by going to different countries, and Bible translators who translate the Bible into different languages.

Values

Compassion; flexibility; service; humility; willingness; thoughtfulness

God is a Servant

Week 1: We are to honour our parents as Jesus honoured His parents.

The boy Jesus obeyed his parents.

Memory Verse: Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
Col.3:20

Revise the lessons on Jesus as a boy from 'God is Wise Week 1'.

Jesus was born as a baby. What were the names of his mother and father here on earth?

What did He learn from Joseph? (He learned how to make things with wood.)

What else did He learn when He was growing up?

Did Jesus have brothers and sisters?

Jesus obeyed His mother and father. What does it mean to obey? - to do what you are asked or told quickly with a happy heart (without grumbling!)

Story: Jesus visits the temple. Lk.2:41-52

When Jesus was twelve years old, He went with his parents, Joseph and Mary, to the temple (church) at Jerusalem, just as they did every year. Jerusalem was a long way from where they lived. They walked for several days with their family and friends.

When they got to the Jerusalem Jesus went to the temple. He started asking questions and talking about God with the wise old teachers. Jesus listened to them teaching and asked them questions too. They were amazed at how much this boy understood. He understood everything in the Bible!

When it was time to go home all the families went together. Joseph and Mary thought Jesus was walking with some of his friends. After a while they went to find Jesus, but no-one had seen him all day.

"He must have been left behind," said Joseph, and they hurried back to look for him.

At last they found Jesus in the Temple with the teachers! Joseph and Mary told him how worried they were when they couldn't find him.

"Didn't you know I was in my Father's house?" said Jesus.

He went straight home with them.

Jesus always listened to his parents and obeyed them. And Mary never forgot how much Jesus loved God's word, even when he was a little boy.

What instructions do children in our family have to follow? How can children help their parents?

God is a Servant

Week 2: We are to help the sick and needy as Jesus did.

Jesus cared about sick people. He was kind to them, and used His power to make them better.

Memory Verse: Jesus healed many sick people. Mark 1:34

Story 1: The healing of blind Bartimaeus: Mark 10:46-52

As Jesus and His disciples were traveling one day, they came across a man named Bartimaeus. Bartimaeus was sitting on the side of the road, begging for food. He was blind.

Earlier in his life he could see, so he could do anything anyone else could. He used to be able to see where he was going, what he was doing, and what everyone and everything around him were doing too. Until one day... he couldn't. That meant he couldn't work to get money, so he had to sit with a begging bowl by the side of the road and hope that people would put money in.

When he heard that it was Jesus walking past, he called out, "Jesus, please help me!".

Some people around Bartimaeus told him to be quiet, but he didn't stop. He called out again.

When Jesus heard him, He stopped, and He asked Bartimaeus to come to Him. Bartimaeus was so excited that he jumped up and ran to where he heard Jesus' voice.

Jesus asked him what it was that he wanted, and Bartimaeus said, "I would like to be able to see again."

Jesus said to him, "Because you believed you are healed." And straight away Bartimaeus could see.

Bartimaeus didn't have to be good enough for Jesus to heal him. He just had to believe that Jesus could do it.

After the story:

The crowd told him to, "Be quiet", but when Jesus saw him, He stopped and talked with him, listened to him and healed him. Jesus wants us to have hearts like His that care for people who are sad or hurting.

Story 2: The man at the pool, John 5:5-13

In the land where Jesus lived there was a very special pool. The water was calm most of the time, but sometimes it bubbled. People said that the water from this pool could make sick people feel better. They said that the best time to get into the pool was when the water bubbled.

Lots of sick people came to this pool. When the water bubbled, they got into it. They would feel much better.

One day Jesus was walking by the pool. There he saw a man who could not walk. The man had been lame for a long time. He was sitting on a mat near the pool, but could not move his legs to get into the pool when the water bubbled. Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to get well?"

"Yes, I do," said the man. "But I have no one to help me get into the pool when the water bubbles."

Then Jesus said, "Stand up. Pick up your mat and walk."

Do you think the man said, "Oh no, I cannot do that, I cannot walk."?

Not he didn't. He just did what Jesus told him to do. Straight away the man's legs became strong. The man stood up and walked!

The leaders of the people were angry. They did not like Jesus. They were jealous that the people liked Jesus more than them. They said to Jesus, "You should not be healing people today because it is the day when everyone should rest."

But Jesus said, "God does not rest. He is always working to help people. So today I am working too."

Story 3: The man who could not hear or speak Mark 7:31-37.

People who are deaf often cannot speak. They did not hear any sounds when they were a baby so did not learn to talk.

Once there was a man who was deaf. He could not hear. He could not speak either, because he had never been able to hear the sounds around him. He could not hear the words that people were saying, so when he was a baby, he did not learn to speak like other children did. Some of his friends came to Jesus. They asked Jesus to heal the man.

Jesus took the man away from the crowd. The man was alone with Jesus. Jesus put His fingers into the man's ears. He spat on his hands and then touched the man's tongue.

Then Jesus looked up to heaven. He spoke to the man's ears and said, "Open up!" At once the deaf man could hear. He opened his mouth and he was able to speak, too.

Jesus said to him, "Please don't tell anyone about this." Jesus knew that the leaders would not be happy. They did not like to see Jesus healing people, because this was something they could not do. They saw that the people liked Jesus more than them. But the people could not stop talking about it.

"See what Jesus is able to do," they said. "He can even make the deaf hear. And He has made this man speak!"

After the story:

Learn to do some signing as used by deaf people.

Try to lip-read - Parent can mouth some words and the student tries to lip-read.

Talk about people with disabilities.

How can we help people who are sick or sad? If a friend is sad, you could offer to let them play with you, talk with them, draw them a picture. If someone in our family is not feeling well, you could make a card, pray for them to feel better, talk quietly with them and ask them if there's something you could help them with.

Prayer for anyone known to the children who is sick.

Practical opportunity: Reach out to some people in the community. Maybe visit some elderly people.

God is a Servant

Week 3: We can pray for people in the name of Jesus.

We can help people who are sick or needy by praying for them.

Memory Verse: If you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. John 16:24

Story 2: Peter, John & the lame man at the temple gate: Acts 3:1-10

Jesus told us to pray for sick people. Remember when Jesus came alive again after He died? And not long after that He went back to heaven to be with Father God. But just before He went up into the sky in the cloud, He told his special friends, the disciples something special. He told them that they could pray for sick people, and they would be healed through the power of Jesus, even though Jesus was no longer here in His body. Jesus said to them, "Go into the whole world and tell everyone about me...you will put your hands on sick people, and they will get well." Mark 15,18

Peter and John were disciples of Jesus. They were the first to do what Jesus told them to do – to pray for sick people. One day, they were going to the temple to pray. They could hear a man calling, "Please give me some money! In those days, money was made from silver and gold. I am lame. I cannot walk."

What does 'lame' mean? What would it be like to not be able to stand or walk?

They saw the lame man sitting bent up at the gate of the temple. They stopped to talk to the man.

"I'm sorry," said Peter. "I have no gold or silver. But I can give you something better than that."

Peter looked at the man. He took the man's right hand and lifted him to his feet. "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk."

At once the man's feet and ankles became strong and he jumped up and down. Then he began to walk. He knew that God had healed him.

"Oh, I am so happy" he shouted with joy. "Praise God I can walk! I can jump! Oh, praise God!"

People came running from the temple to look. They asked:

"How did you heal him, Peter? What did you do to make him walk?"

The people were all talking and asking each other what happened.

Peter answered, "I did not heal this man! It was God who made him walk. Even though Jesus has gone back to Heaven, God can still heal people. He was lame but God healed him. He was healed because he believed in the name of Jesus Christ. Didn't you hear me say, 'in the name of Jesus Christ, walk.?'"

The man who had been lame went away leaping and shouting: "Thank you Lord Jesus! Thank you for making me walk again. Oh! Praise God!"

Like the disciples, we can be special friends of Jesus too. How can we do what Jesus told the disciples to do?

Story 2: Paul prays for a lame man Acts 14: 8-10

Do you remember Saul? He had his life changed when Jesus shone His bright light on him on the road to Damascus. Saul had his name changed to Paul. Paul and his friend Barnabas traveled together. They walked from town to town. In every town, they told people about Jesus. Paul and Barnabas helped people who were sick. Many, many people believed in Jesus, God's Son, because of Paul and Barnabas.

Paul and Barnabas came to a town called Lystra. They told the people there that Jesus is God's Son. They told how Jesus made sick people well. Paul and Barnabas told the people that God loved them. As Paul talked, he looked at one man in the crowd. This man had never walked in his whole life. His feet didn't work. The man looked back at Paul. Paul could see that the man believed God could make his feet better!

So Paul said to the man, "Stand up on your feet!" The man jumped up on his feet. He began to walk. He started running around and leaping. He was so happy that his feet had been healed.

The people in the crowd saw the man leaping and jumping! The people got VERY excited! They thought Paul and Barnabas had made the man's feet better! But Paul and Barnabas had not done this. They were just people like everyone else. Paul and Barnabas told the people the truth. They wanted everyone to know that God had made the man's feet better.

Paul said, "We are only here to bring the good news about Jesus." Paul and Barnabas walked to other cities to tell others about Jesus. They wanted to show God's love to everyone!

We can also pray in the name of Jesus. We cannot pray in our own name, but Jesus is the One with power. It's Jesus Name that is powerful. Peter and John and Paul did not have magical powers. Jesus is the One with power. They would have been listening to the Holy Spirit, asking Him what they should do, and when they knew that Jesus wanted them to pray for the lame men, they did, and Jesus healed them.

God is a Servant

Week 4: We can serve God our Father by telling others about Jesus.

We can serve God by telling others about Jesus, and pray for those who do not know Jesus.

Memory Verse: Let your light shine so that others may see it. Mt.5:16

Story: Philip and the Ethiopian:

Philip did not know WHY God was telling him to go a certain way, but God had a plan for him – that he would meet someone who wanted to know Jesus. Acts 8:26-40

Phillip and some of Jesus' disciples, were telling people in the small towns of Samaria about Jesus Christ, God's son, and many people believed the good news.

Then God sent an angel to tell Phillip "Go this way into the desert. God has something for you to do."
Phillip listened and obeyed.

He wondered why God had sent him to such a lonely place, but he knew that God's Spirit was with him. God wanted Phillip to tell someone about Jesus.

Soon a very important man, from the country of Ethiopia in Africa, came past in his chariot. He was in charge of the Queen of Ethiopia's treasure and he was reading the words of Isaiah, from the Bible.

Phillip asked the man if he understood the words he was reading.
"I can't understand them," he answered, "and I have no one to teach me."

So Phillip explained to the man from Ethiopia how God had written long ago about his Son and that anyone who believes in Jesus could become a child of God. To show that they really believed, they could be baptized. That meant going into some water as a sign that Jesus has made them clean inside.

"I want to get baptized right now," the Ethiopian man said.
"If you truly believe with all you heart, you can," Phillip replied.
"I do believe Jesus is the Son of God," said the man.
And so Phillip baptized him in the river.

Telling others about Jesus. Not everyone has heard about Father God and Jesus like we have, but God loves everyone and wants them all to know Him. If you met someone who wanted to know about Jesus, what could you tell them?

There are people who go to other places to tell people about Jesus. They are called missionaries. As well as telling people about Jesus, they care for people by taking food for

hungry people, wood or materials to help build homes for someone poor. (If you know of missionaries you could invite them to come and share.)

Story 2: Paul tells people about God the Creator Acts 17: 16-34

Another servant of God who told people about Jesus was Paul. Paul traveled to many places telling people about Jesus. One time he was in the country of Greece, in the city of Athens.

As he walked the streets of Athens, he saw that there were idols in the city. Idols are statues that people worship instead of the true God. There were idols everywhere!

What does God say about idols?

Paul must have been very sad to see all those idols. Paul, knew the Ten Commandment. God said not to have other gods, and not to make anything to be an idol.

He went to the marketplace every day and talked to people about Jesus.

Some men saw him talking to the people and asked who Paul was. They heard him speaking about things they had never heard before. They took Paul to Mars Hill, to a place where he could speak to many people at once. The hill is in the middle of the city, so it was easy for people to see and hear him.

Paul stood at the top of the hill and told them "People of Athens, I see that you have lots of gods. I even found one that said 'To the Unknown God'. I am going to tell you about the One that you are worshipping that you do not know."

Paul told them about how God created the world and that He doesn't like anyone to worship stone or gold or silver statues. He told them that Jesus, God's son, was killed but came alive again. Some people made fun of Paul but other people said that "We will listen to Paul again about this."

Not everyone will want to hear about Jesus when you tell them. Some might make fun of you, but then others will want to hear more. We need to learn what the Bible says, so we can answer their questions.

Bible translators. What language do we speak? The first Bible was in the language spoken by Jesus in His country. It was called "Hebrew". But later it was 'translated' into English. That means it was changed from one language to another, but the meaning didn't change. We can say "Hello" in English or in French, "Bonjour." Now the Bible has been translated into many, many different languages so that people all over the world can read the Bible.

God is Protector

(3 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That the God of the Bible is the one true God
- That God protects us when we follow His rules
- That our God is one who can be trusted

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

How animals protect themselves

Link between “God is Protector” and the topic:

God has placed within His creation mechanisms and behaviours that enable animals to protect themselves. This was necessary for animals to survive after the Fall, when for the first time, some animals became carnivorous.

Values:

Responsibility; Safety and Security; Peace; Faith; Trust

God is Protector

Week 1: God our Father is the one true God. We can put our trust in Him.

There is only one true God. God miraculously protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego because they stood up for Him.

Memory Verse: The Lord is the only true God, the living God, the everlasting King. Jer.10:10a

Story: The 3 Hebrew men in the fiery furnace: Daniel 3

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were three men who loved God. They knew that bowing to idols was wrong, but it was dangerous to disobey a king!

King Nebuchadnezzar was a very bossy king. "Everyone must bow down and pray to a big gold statue I have made. It will be your god," said the king.

Three men would NOT bow to the big gold statue.

"We bow and pray ONLY to God," they said, "We do not bow to a statue that a man has made."

The king was VERY angry. He made another rule.

"Throw them into a VERY hot fire," he said. "That will make them change their mind."

The soldiers made a VERY hot fire. The three men prayed and they asked God to help them. They would not bow down to statues.

The king's soldiers threw the men into the fire. It was very hot but it didn't burn them! God was looking after them! Not even their clothes got burnt!

The King looked into the fire and saw God's angel looking after the men.

He knew a statue could never do that. Then the King believed in the true God.

The King made a new rule.

"The three men were right and I was wrong. Everyone in my kingdom must pray to the true God and not to statues," he said.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not join in worshipping the idol, as the king told them to do. They trusted in God, and would not bow to a false god. God *protected* them because they obeyed God.

Story 2: The Golden Calf Exodus 32

God protects us when we follow His rules

In our world there are people groups that worship man-made false gods. They could be made of wood or metal. These gods cannot hear them, see them or answer their prayers.

Moses climbed up the mountain to talk to God, carrying two big, flat stones, while all the people waited at the bottom of the mountain.

God wrote His rules on the stones. God's rules tell people that God is the only real God to love and trust and how to do what is good and right, to other people.

Moses was away a long time.

"Let's make a God we can see, out of gold treasure," they said.

They melted their gold treasure in a hot fire and made it into the shape of a calf. They danced around the calf and prayed to it. But the golden calf could not answer their prayers.

As Moses came down the mountain, he saw the people praying to their idol. He was so angry that he broke the stones that God had written on.

Then everyone remembered how God had saved them from the Egyptian Pharaoh King, and they were sorry.

Moses went back up the mountain again, with two new stones.

God gave Moses the new rules again.

"Tell the people to follow these good rules," God said.

"Now they will know what is the right thing to do and how to live good lives."

God's rules are called the Ten Commandments. If we live the way God wants us to, He will protect us.

God made us to worship Him, and no one else. When people worship and pray to other things, these are called idols.

God is very sad when people worship other gods. He wants them to stop worshiping false gods, and worship Him, the one true God who can really answer our prayers. We can pray for these people to discover Our Father God.

There are many people who do not know Father God. Not everyone has heard about Father God in the way that we have. Some have never even heard His name! But Father God loves all people very much and wants them to know Him. God sends missionaries to go and tell them about Father God.

It's not just people in other places who need to know about Father God and to love and worship Him.

God is Protector

Week 2: God our Father can be trusted.

God helped Daniel who trusted in Him. We too, can trust God, no matter what the situation.

Memory Verse: The name of the Lord is a strong tower; God's people can run there and be safe. Prov.18:10

Story: Daniel and the Lion's den: Daniel 6

Daniel was a friend of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who God saved from the fiery furnace. God blessed Daniel and made him very wise.

King Darius liked Daniel, and allowed him to help rule the land. Now the other wise men were jealous. They tried to find something bad about Daniel. But Daniel was a good man. He always prayed to God. The men could not find anything bad about him. So they made a plan.

They went to the king and said, "Let's make a new law. Let's say that everyone has to bow down and pray to you. If they don't, we'll throw them into the lion's den."

The king liked the idea of being so important. He liked the idea of people bowing down to him. So he made it a new law. Daniel heard about the new law. But he went into his room and prayed near the open window. The men saw him through the window and took him to the king.

Let's throw Daniel into the lions' den," they said.

The king was sorry, because he liked Daniel very much. But he had made the law and it could not be changed. The men's plan had worked. They put Daniel in the lions' den.

The next morning, the king got up very early. He ran to the lions' den.

"Daniel, are you there?" called the king.

"Yes," called Daniel. "I am here and I am not hurt. God sent an angel to close the lions' mouths."

The king was very happy. He took Daniel out. God had saved him. The king wrote to all the people under his rule. The letter said, "I am making a new rule. Everywhere in my kingdom, people will worship only the God of Daniel, for He is the only God who can save you."

Daniel trusted God, even going into the den of lions. God's power is far greater than the jaws of hungry lions. He sent an angel to shut their mouths!

Daniel trusted in Father God, even though he knew the law that had been made. He continued to pray and do what he knew was right. Father God looked after Daniel: Daniel did not try and work out how to escape. God was working to rescue him. The King saw how Daniel trusted God, and saw the miracle that God had done. He made a new law that the

whole kingdom should now worship Daniel's God. What amazing things did God do in this story? *(He did not just rescue Daniel but He showed a whole lot of people that He was the true God.)*

When I am afraid. Being afraid is not a good feeling. When we know that Our Father God is able to take care of us, even at a dangerous time, we do not have to be afraid. Can you think of any times when you didn't feel safe, or when you felt afraid? Father God is with us, loving and caring about us. He is strong and powerful and able to help us.

God is Protector

Week 3: Jesus keeps us in His care as we follow Him.

God's power to care for and protect His people is greater than any enemy plans.

Memory Verse: Give all your worries to Him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7

Story 1: Saul's escape from Damascus over the city wall in a basket. Acts 9:19-31

Saul escapes in a basket

Remember the story of Saul, who used to kill Christians? (Saul's name was later changed to Paul.) One day Jesus came to him when he was on the road. Jesus came as a bright light, and He spoke to Saul and said that he had to stop killing Christians. Saul knew it was Jesus, and became a follower.

Now Saul believed that Jesus was sent by Father God and he wanted to tell others about Jesus too. His old 'friends' (who didn't love Jesus) still wanted to stop the Christians and now they were angry with Saul too and wanted to stop him!

The city of Damascus, like most cities in those days was built with the houses and other buildings inside a big tall wall which went all around for protection. There were gates and windows in the wall, but anyone going in or out had to go through the gates in the wall. So, Saul would have been seen if he just ran or walked out of Damascus in the daytime. God gave some of his friends a very clever idea. They found a big basket and tied a strong rope to it.

At night, when no one was looking, Saul got in the basket, and the friends lowered it down over the wall, so no one knew he had escaped. God protected him, and Saul continued to tell many people about Jesus.

Story 2: Paul and Silas escape from jail Acts 16:16-40 *(Paul is the same person as in the previous story, but he had his name changed.)*

Paul had a good friend named Silas. Paul and Silas went from town to town telling everyone the good news about Jesus Christ the son of God. It was the rule that no one could talk about Jesus, or they would be put into jail. They soon got arrested.

Paul and Silas did not worry. They knew that God was with them everywhere. Even in jail! At night they sang songs and prayed. The other prisoners and guards listened to their songs and prayers.

One night there was an earthquake. The chains on the prisoners fell off and all the jail doors opened. If the prisoners escaped the guards would be in trouble. But Paul and Silas did not run away. The guard was so pleased that they were still there.

“God is with us and we want you to know about Jesus, God’s Son,” they told the guard.

“Tell me about him,” the guard said.

Paul explained how God sent his son to earth. “He healed and helped people, then died on a cross. Now he is alive again, just as God had promised. Just believe that Jesus Christ is God’s Son. You too will become God’s friend.”

“I do believe that Jesus is God’s Son,” said the guard.

The Guard told all his family about Jesus. They all listened to Paul and Silas and they all believed in Jesus too. Like Paul and Silas, they were now God’s children.

People who do God’s work in dangerous places

In some countries in the world, people cannot worship Jesus, except in secret. In these places is very difficult for those who love God. Reading a Bible has to be done in secret, and they can only tell others about Jesus in secret. If they get caught, they will be in trouble. Sometimes missionaries take Bibles into these countries because the government stops people from having Bibles of their own.

What might we be worried about? What can we do? Make a book called “Jesus keeps me safe.”

God is Truth

(3 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- Jesus knows all about us
- The God of the Bible is the only true God
- The Bible is true and God wants us to know what it says
- Jesus wants us to follow Him

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Life in Bible times

Link between “God is Truth” and the topic:

When children understand that the Bible events happened in a real place, at a real time, they will not mistake the events as fiction or fairy stories, but know that these events are true. They will learn about people, homes, food, water and customs of people in Israel Bible times.

Values:

Honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; integrity

God is Truth

Week 1: God wants us to know what the Bible says, so we do not follow those who make wrong choices.

Jesus used God's word when tempted. The Bible is true, and the stories happened at a real time, in a real place, with real people.

Memory Verse: I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You.

Ps.119:11

Story: Jesus is tempted by Satan: Mt.4:1-11

As a boy, Jesus was always a good helper to His parents, Mary and Joseph, but He also knew that He must learn what God wanted Him to do. That's why He went to the temple to learn from the Bible. When Jesus grew up to be a man, He still obeyed God.

One day He went for a long walk in the desert. *What is a desert like? (discuss)* He stayed there many days. He did not take food with Him and had no one to talk to. He just wanted to be alone with God.

The bad angel, Satan, was there in the desert too. You cannot see this bad angel, but you can see the things that he does. He makes people do evil things. Satan thought that this would be a good time to make Jesus do something wrong. Satan talked to Jesus.

"Why don't you listen to me?" he said. "If you are hungry, why don't you turn these stones into bread?"

Now Jesus could easily do this, because He was God, and had power to do miracles. A miracle is when God does something to help people – something that no human could do. Jesus knew that Father God had sent Him to the earth to use His power to help others. His power was not for Himself, so He said to Satan, "No, Satan. God tells us that His word is more important than food."

Satan came to Jesus again and said, "You could do some fantastic tricks like jumping from this high point. Everyone would think how great you are if you jumped and didn't hurt yourself. The angels would hold you and stop you from being hurt."

Jesus knew that this was not what God wanted Him to do. Jesus didn't need to jump off a high place to make people think he was important. Jesus must do only the things that *God* told Him to do. God was His Heavenly Father and He must obey Him only.

"Get away from me Satan," said Jesus. "God's word says that we don't have to do anything to prove that God is powerful. He just IS." Jesus said "no" to Satan.

Satan came again and said, "When you are standing up high you can see the cities of the world. Satan said, "I will give you all these cities if you worship me." Jesus said 'no' again to

Satan. He said:” The word of God says, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” After a while Satan left Jesus. Sometimes Satan speaks to us as well. He doesn't speak in a loud voice. He only speaks through our thoughts. Perhaps he might make us think about being unkind to someone, or telling a lie. When we have those bad thoughts, we must say 'no' to Satan, just as Jesus did. We can say a verse that we know from the Bible.

Satan is the enemy of God. He tries to make us do wrong things, as he tried to make Jesus do wrong things. But Jesus did not do what Satan asked. When we feel like doing the wrong thing, it is called 'being tempted'. But we do not HAVE to do the wrong thing. We can say 'no' and choose to do the right thing instead.

Situations to discuss:

Mum tells you it's time for bed, but you don't want to stop playing. What should you do?

You are playing with a ball, then your friend comes along and asks to play too. You would really like to have it to yourself. What will you say? (*You could say, 'not right now, but come back in a minute and then you can play'.*)

God is Truth

Week 2: God knows all about us.

Jesus knows about all people. Jesus knew about the woman at the well.

Memory Verse: He knows everyone, everywhere and nothing can be hidden from Him.
Heb.4:13

Story 1: The Samaritan woman at the well: John 4:4-26

(Note: In telling this story to children, it is not appropriate to go into details of her lifestyle, but just highlight the fact that that Jesus knew all about her.)

Jesus was tired and thirsty. He sat down by a well and rested while his helpers went into town to buy food. They were all hungry after walking a long way.

A woman from the town of Samaria came to get water from the well and was surprised when Jesus asked someone like her, from Samaria, for a drink of water. In those days, people from Israel where Jesus lived, did not usually speak to people from Samaria.

Jesus said, "If you knew who I am, you would ask me to give you water that makes you new."

"But you don't have a bucket or rope and the well is deep," said the woman to Jesus.

"You soon get thirsty again when you drink water," said Jesus. "I am talking about God's spirit that can make you new and clean inside."

Jesus knew about everything she had ever done, and He knew that she had done things that God does not like.

"Please give me this water," she said.

Jesus told her that God wants everyone, wherever they live, to know him and to love him with all their hearts.

"I know you are a man of God," she said. "God has promised to send someone one day, who will save us from our sins."

Jesus said. "I am the Promised One."

The woman believed Jesus! She left her water jar by the well and ran home to tell everyone.

"Come and see God's promised Son!" she said,

"He knows everything I ever did!"

The people from Samaria believed too!

Jesus knew that this woman had made wrong choices, but He was kind to her. Because of this she listened to Him and brought others to meet Him. Jesus knew all about the woman, even though He'd never met her before. Jesus showed love and kindness to the Samaritan woman. Jesus knew all about her life and told her about some of her wrong choices, but He

offered her a new start. The woman was so amazed by her time with Jesus, that she went to tell everyone else about Him. They came with her to meet Jesus and wanted Him to stay longer. He stayed two more days and many Samaritans came to believe that Jesus was the special one sent by Father God.

Story revision: Revise the story of Nathanael, John 1:43-50. God knew all about him too.

When Jesus called the disciples to be His followers, He called them by name. The first ones He called were the four fishermen, Simon, Andrew, James and John. One day, Jesus met Philip walking down a street in Galilee. He knew that Philip would become one of His friends.

"Follow me," Jesus said to Philip. Philip had a friend called Nathanael. He told Nathanael about Jesus. "Come with me," said Philip. "I have found the special One sent by God."

Nathanael went with Philip to see Jesus. When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, He knew that Nathanael too would become one of His friends. He had never heard of Nathanael before, yet Jesus knew all about him. He even knew his name.

"How did you know me? How did you know my name?" asked Nathanael.

Jesus answered, "I saw you, Nathanael, even before Philip asked you to come and meet me. I saw you when you were sitting under the fig tree." Nathanael was surprised and said, "Jesus, you really are the Son of God!"

Jesus knows everything about us: He knows where we live, who is in our family, what we like to eat. He also knows how we feel, and what we like or don't like. He knows what makes us happy, sad, angry, worried or scared. Do you ever feel worried or scared? We can pray to Jesus when we are feeling sad, worried or scared.

Revise memory verse from *God is Love week 4*: God knows how many hairs on your head. You are more precious to Him than the birds. Matthew 10:31

God is Truth

Week 3: God Our Father wants us to follow Jesus.

God planned for us to be followers of Jesus, doing as Jesus did.

Memory Verse: Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.' Mat 19:14

Story 1: Jesus calls his disciples: Lk.5:2-11

Jesus was walking along the water's edge by the sea of Galilee. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon. Jesus asked Simon to take the boat a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Take the boat out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

When they let down the nets, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They called James and John who were in another boat, to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

When Simon saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and knew that Jesus was from God.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So, they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Jesus did a miracle and provided many fish for them, so many that their nets nearly broke. It showed them how special Jesus was. Then He called them to follow Him, and that He would make them 'fishers of men.'

Following Jesus with our actions:

How can we follow Jesus today? We know that Jesus is kind, good and forgiving.

We can also be kind, honest and forgive others

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." How do we show the love of Jesus to people?

How would Jesus want us to act if we are a follower of Jesus? He would want us to share with our friends, to speak kindly to brother or sisters, to forgive people if they do things we don't like.

Story 2: Nicodemus John 3:1-17.

Nicodemus had fancy clothes. He was rich. Nicodemus was a Pharisee. Pharisees were people from the church at the time when Jesus walked on earth. They knew some of the Bible - about when God made the world, and about Moses, but they didn't know that Jesus

was God's Son. In fact, they didn't like Jesus. They didn't really love God. They just followed a lot of rules.

But there was one Pharisee who was different. His name was Nicodemus. He wanted to find out about Jesus. He came to Jesus very quietly at night. Why at night? Probably because he didn't want the other Pharisees to know that he wanted to find out more about Jesus. He might have knocked at the door of Jesus' house, and Jesus would have let him in. Then they sat down and had a talk.

"How can I get to know God more?" asked Nicodemus. Jesus told him that he had to be 'born again'.

"How can I do this?" asked Nicodemus. "I can't get back into my mummy's tummy and be born all over again!"

"No," said Jesus. "But you can have a new start in life, just like a little baby coming into the world has a new start. You have to decide to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love and follow Him forever."

We don't know whether Nicodemus changed because the Bible doesn't tell us, but we hope that he did. And everyone in the world can have a chance to make a new start in life by asking Jesus to come and be their special friend.

God is Lord and King (3 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God is in charge of the whole world, and it was His plan to send Jesus.
- Christmas is a special time when we remember when God sent Jesus into the world as part of his big plan for the world
- Baby Jesus was God's son. This means that although he was a human baby, he was also God.

Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Christmas theme

Link between "God is Lord and King" the topic:

Discuss with children that God is in control of the whole universe. That is, our world, the sun and the stars. He tells the sun the time to set. He makes the tides because the moon is under His control, (Ps 104:19). Because God is looking after our world, He looks after the people that He made. He sent His son Jesus into the world so that every person in the whole world could have the opportunity of knowing the true God.

Values:

Faith; respect for truth; confidence that God is in charge of my life

God is Lord and King

Week 1: God our Father has a plan for the world.

God's plan for the world – He sent His Son, Jesus. He had a plan right from creation to send His son Jesus so that we could be close to Father God. God has plans for us now and throughout our lives.

Memory Verse: She will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. Mt.1:21

Story 1: Angel came to Mary: Luke 1:26-56

Many of the true Bible stories we have heard...the Creation, Noah, Moses, Joseph, Daniel... were in the Old Testament. (*Show the division between Old and New Testament.*) The New Testament begins with when Jesus came to earth as a baby. The stories in the Old Testament happened first, and then came the stories of the New Testament, not so long ago. This true story of when Jesus was born, is at the beginning of the New Testament. God had a plan for the world. That's why He sent Jesus. God has a plan for our lives too.

For a long, long time, people had read God's promises that one day He would send His own Son from heaven to rule the earth and bring hope and peace, so people waited and prayed.

A young unmarried girl called Mary lived in the town of Nazareth. She loved God with all her heart and was kind and good. God sent the angel Gabriel to tell her she was to be the promised Savior's mother.

"Don't be frightened," Gabriel said. "You are special and God has chosen you. God's Holy Spirit will touch you and the baby boy you have will be the Promised One people have been waiting for. You will call him Jesus."

"In three months' time your cousin Elizabeth will also have a baby boy, even though she is now far too old to be a mother. With God nothing shall be impossible. Go and see her," said the angel.

"I will do everything God wants me to do," replied Mary, and left as soon as she could to visit her cousin in Judea.

Elizabeth was so happy to see Mary. Elizabeth was also going to have a baby, just like the angel had said!

It was a miracle and the two mothers thanked God!

Joseph had promised to marry Mary one day. He was a good man, but now Mary was having a baby. One night angel Gabriel visited Joseph and said not to be afraid.

The angel said, "Joseph, marry Mary and take good care of her. She is the pure young girl chosen as part of God's wonderful plan to be the mother of the Savior of the world. His name shall be called JESUS.

When the baby was almost ready to be born, there was a special instruction from the government, that all people in their area had to go to the town of Bethlehem to be counted. So Joseph and Mary traveled for several days to Bethlehem. Mary rode the donkey and Joseph walked beside her. It was a long and dusty journey.

Story 2: Journey to Bethlehem: Luke 2:1-6

In the land of Israel, a law had been made, that people had to go to the place where they were born. This was so that the government could count how many people were in the country. Joseph had to go to Bethlehem, where he was born. Mary, who was carrying the baby Jesus inside her, had to go with Joseph. It was a long way. Nobody had cars back then. Joseph walked and Mary rode on a donkey. The trip would have taken several days. When they arrived in Bethlehem all the places to stay were full. But a kind inn keeper gave them a place to stay in the stable at the back, where the animals were kept.

God is Lord and King

Week 2: Jesus is born

Christmas is a time for giving not just receiving present, but to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the greatest gift ever.

Memory Verse: For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. Is.9:6

Story: The Birth of Jesus: Luke 2: 6-20

Jesus came to us as a baby, just as God had planned, so that people could come back to God our Father, by asking Jesus to be our friend.

It took about three days to get to Bethlehem and Mary rode on the back of the donkey. It was a bumpy ride and Mary would have been very tired and very uncomfortable. They finally arrived in Bethlehem.

So many people had come to put their name on the list at Bethlehem that there was nowhere for Mary and Joseph to stay, except a smelly stable that animals slept in. That night baby Jesus, the promised Son of God, was born in a stable in Bethlehem. A very bright star appeared in the sky right above the place where He was born.

Joseph and Mary called the baby Jesus, just like the angel Gabriel had told them. They wrapped him in a soft linen cloth and made him a bed in a manger box of hay.

On the night that Jesus was born in Bethlehem some shepherds were staying on the fields nearby. They were sitting down quietly watching their sheep, to make sure that they were safe.

Suddenly, the whole sky was filled with a very bright light and the Glory of God shone all around them. The shepherds were very frightened. Then an angel appeared and spoke to them.

“Don't be frightened,” he said. “I have good news to tell you! In Bethlehem today the Saviour has been born. He is Christ the Lord, God’s gift to you. When you find a baby wrapped in soft linen cloth lying in a manger bed of hay then you will know that this is true.”

Then the night sky was filled with hundreds more angels who were praising and thanking God, saying, “Glory to God in heaven and may the whole world be filled with peace and kindness towards others.”

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found baby Jesus wrapped in soft linen, sleeping in a manger bed of hay, just as the angel said. They told Mary and Joseph about the angel’s good news. After they left the stable the shepherds told everyone they met about the angels and their wonderful news!

The Saviour, the promised Son of God, had come at last!

They knew that the birth of Jesus was God's greatest gift that had been told about long ago.

God Our Father gave the most precious thing He had when he chose to send His Son Jesus into our world. He did this out of great love because He knew what people needed. What can we give? Can you think of anyone who would like a special gift from you at Christmas? ... perhaps someone who is sick or very old. What could you make for them? There are some things we can give that don't cost money. They are not presents to wrap up, but will bring joy and happiness to others. It could be a friendly smile, a loving hug, kind words or giving some special help. These things can all make others feel special and it brings joy to Father God too.

Story 2: The wise men, Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born some wise men, who lived far away to the east, saw a BIG star in the sky one night. These wise men knew all about stars. They knew God had promised that when the special king was born, a big star would be seen.

"We must go and see the new born King," they said.

It was a long, long journey, and by the time they arrived in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph were living in a house with the baby Jesus who was now about one year old.

On their way they had gone to King Herod's palace, to find out where the new baby King was.

"There is no baby king here," said King Herod. "But if you find him, I would like to see him too."

The Wise Men promised to come back and tell King Herod where the baby king was. They followed the star, all the way to Bethlehem.

At last they found Jesus, the baby king! They gave baby Jesus special presents - gold, and sweet-smelling frankincense and myrrh.

"We will tell King Herod about the baby," they said.

But God told the Wise Men, in a dream, NOT to go and tell King Herod. King Herod wanted to be the only king. He would send his soldiers to get the baby.

"Go home another way," God said.

So, the Wise men went home another way. They were happy because the star had shown the way to the baby king, just as God had promised long ago.

God is Lord and King

Week 3: Jesus is God's Son who came as a baby, but also a King.

God provided special protection for the Baby Jesus. This was because He was God's Son, and had a very special job to do when He was living on the earth.

Memory Verse: The Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Josh.1:9

Story: Mary and Joseph leave Bethlehem Mt.2:13-15, 19-23

After the wise men had left, God sent an angel to warn Joseph about some danger.

Joseph fell asleep, and that night, God sent an angel to talk to Joseph in his dream. The angel told Joseph that baby Jesus was in danger!

King Herod had a bad plan and he was sending his soldiers to find baby Jesus and take him away, because he had heard that Jesus would be a new king. Herod was the only king in this land! He did not want another king to take his place.

God told Joseph that the family must escape to Egypt. The angel warned Joseph to get up, take Mary and the baby and go as quickly as possible. Egypt was another country, far away. God knew that they would be safe in Egypt.

Joseph did what God said to do. Joseph woke up. He did just what the angel had told him to do. He woke up Mary and she picked up baby Jesus from his bed. They left at night and in a hurry. Mary rode the donkey, carrying the young Jesus in her arms. Joseph walked as fast as he could beside the donkey.

The Lord watched over Jesus and His family. Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus were safe in Egypt. They stayed there for several years, until God sent the angel to Joseph again to tell him when it was safe to come back to their own land. When they came back, they went to Nazareth and lived there, and that's where Jesus grew up.