



# Christian Education

Year 3 (age 8 -9)

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# God is Love

(5 weeks)



## Outcomes:

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The value of family life
- That God created families so that children can be loved and cared for by parents
- That we join a family through birth, adoption and marriage
- The moral value of loyalty to one's family

## Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

The family: marriage, extended families, different kinds of families, adoption, heredity, loyalty, respect and other values for family life.

Animal families: principles we can learn from the way that animals care for their young

## Link between "God is Love" and the topics:

God places us in families for love, protection and provision.

## Values

Compassion; Cultural understanding, love for family and community; kindness, forgiveness

# God is Love

## Week 1

### God places us in families to keep us safe.

#### **Bible References**

Luke 2:41-52 Jesus lived in a family. He helped Joseph in the carpenter's shop.

Isaiah 26:3 God will keep us in perfect peace.

#### **Activity**

Ask the student to draw their family table. They are to draw each member of the family sitting around the table.

Use the drawings to stimulate discussion. Ask the student to explain their drawing, giving details about each family member.

#### **Discussion**

God made us to live in families so that we would be safe. Our Mums and Dads are always protecting us from danger. Can you think of some of the dangers they protect us from?

When we are in a big crowd of people, we like to stay close to Mum or Dad so that we don't get lost. We feel safe when we are with them.

Sometimes we wake up in the night and feel afraid. We want to be with Mum or Dad in order to feel safe.

We can also feel safe knowing that Jesus is with us. He's always there looking after us.

Sometimes families go through difficult times. God wants us to trust Him to look after our families. When we trust God we have peace inside. God doesn't want us to worry, but to trust Him.

#### **Bible Lesson: Jesus lived in a family.**

Jesus, when He lived in the town of Nazareth, had a Mum and Dad and brothers and sisters. He lived in a family too. We know that His Mum and Dad were called Mary and Joseph. We know that one of His brothers was called James.

Jesus loved His family and would often help Joseph in the carpenter's shop. What do you think Joseph used to make? How do you think Jesus would help him? How do you think Jesus helped His Mum?

Jesus lived in a house with a flat roof. It had steps going up to the roof. In the cool of the evening, Jesus may have sat with his family on the roof. Perhaps Joseph would tell a story or read from the Scripture. The house was very small. It had no bedrooms with

beds. Instead, the family slept on mats, which were rolled up and placed out of the way during the day. This area then became the living room.

There were no taps in the houses of Nazareth. Instead, everyone would get their water from the village well. Jesus would go with Mary to the well each day, carrying their water pots. They would fill their water pots and carry them back home again. There were no supermarkets in Nazareth either. Mary would take Jesus to the local out-door market where they would buy the things they needed. Back home, Jesus would help Mary bake bread in a special oven over an open fire.

On the Sabbath day Jesus went with his family to the church. It was called a synagogue. Jesus listened hard, for He wanted to learn as much as He could about His Heavenly Father. There were no books in the synagogue. The Scripture was read from a scroll.

Jesus loved His family very much. He felt safe and secure in their care. Joseph and Mary were not rich. They could not buy lots of toys or fine clothes, but Jesus didn't mind. He knew that they loved Him very much, and that was most important. Jesus thanked God for His family.

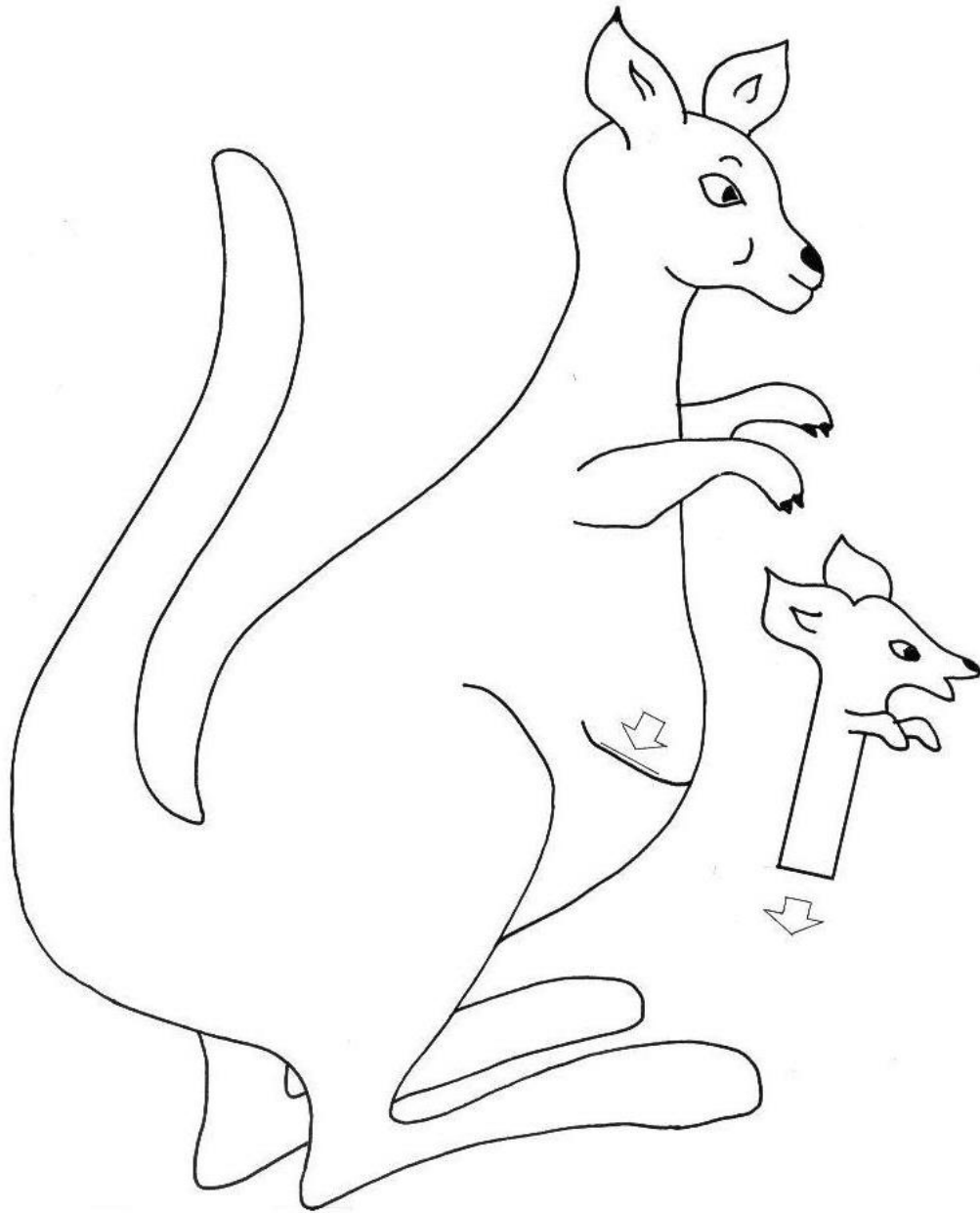
### **Activities**

#### **1. Kangaroo cut-out**

Use the activity sheet to make a kangaroo with baby in the pouch. The baby kangaroo feels safe and secure because its mother is looking after it.

#### **2. Draw a picture of your family.**





# God is Love

## Week 2

### Families are God's idea.

#### **Bible references:**

Genesis 2:7-25 God created a helper for the man

Mark 6:10 Jesus said, "God made them male and female from the beginning of creation."

#### **Bible lesson: God created families**

##### **How God made the first man and the first woman**

God took some clay from the ground and made the shape of a man. Then He breathed gently into the shape. The man's eye's opened and he began to live. God called him Adam.

The Lord made a beautiful garden for him to live in. The garden, called Eden, was full of many wonderful things. Beautiful flowers grew everywhere. Birds sang in the trees, streams flowed through the valley and animals roamed across the fields.

God had made the man in His image to keep Him company and look after the world.

God brought all the animals to Adam one at a time to be given their names.

"Elephant", he would say, or "Tiger", or "Mongoose".

But God felt sorry for Adam. "None of these animals is really like him," thought God, "he needs someone to share his life... someone who cares for him and who he can care for."

That night, God took a rib from Adam's side and made a woman. When Adam awoke the following morning, he found a wife, Eve, lying asleep beside him. Adam was so happy. He took her hand and she woke up. She looked up at him and smiled.

God told the man and woman that it was their job to take care of their new home. God blessed them, saying, "All this is for you. Help yourself to anything you like. But never touch the tree in the middle of the Garden. That tree gives knowledge of good and evil. The day you eat its fruit, you will die."

God did not mean that Adam and Eve would drop down dead the moment they ate the fruit from the tree. He meant that if they ate the fruit they would not be able to live forever with God in heaven.

One day, Adam and Eve were gathering berries for dinner when she heard a silky voice behind her.

"Has God told you that you can eat the fruit from all the trees?" the voice asked softly. Eve turned around to see a snake talking to her.

"God has told us we can eat all the fruit except for what grows on The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil," Eve told the snake.

"Oh come now, that's silly! I hardly think such a lovely fruit would do you any harm," the snake lied. "God knows that if you eat from The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil you'll become just like God, and will be able to decide for yourself what is right and what is wrong."

The woman looked at the fruit and thought how tasty it looked. She thought how wonderful it would be to be as wise and powerful as God. She believed the snake's lie and ate the fruit and also gave some to Adam, who was with her, and he took a bite as well.

She felt an awful strange feeling and wondered what was wrong with her. Suddenly she realized that she was feeling guilty. She had disobeyed God and knew she'd done something wrong.

As soon as they ate the fruit a change came over Adam and Eve. They became unhappy and fearful of God.

Adam and Eve heard God calling them. They hid into the bushes, but God knew where they were. When God asked them if they had eaten from The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil that He had told them not to, they blamed each other for their sins.

God was sad that Adam and Eve had disobeyed them. He told them that they had to leave the Garden of Eden, "From now on you will have to work hard to grow food. It will not be easy because there will be weeds, some weeds with thorns. You will have to make clothes. There will be pain and sickness in the world. And one day, you will die."

### **The first family**

So Adam and his wife went out into the world to live and to work. For a time they were all alone, but after a while God gave them a little child of their own, the first baby that ever came into the world. Eve named him Cain. Now Adam, Eve and Cain made the first family on earth, and after a time another baby came. Eve named him Abel.

When the two boys grew up, they worked, as their father worked before them. Cain, the older brother, chose to work in the fields, and to raise grain and fruits. Abel, the younger brother, had a flock of sheep and became a shepherd. But this story is a sad story. Because sin had entered the world Cain and Abel had an argument, and Cain killed Abel.

### **One family who loved and served God**

More children were born into the world, so the number of people in the world grew. But the sin of the world was so great that God decided to destroy the world with a flood. God had to look around for a family who loved and served him. This family would save the animals from the flood. God could only find one family. It was Noah and his wife and their three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth. Their sons each married a wife. How many people were in this family now?

Yes there were eight people who loved and served God. Noah built the ark just as God told him to and the family, along with the animals, was saved from drowning.

When the flood was over, the family got out of the ark on to dry land. They made homes for themselves. Noah's sons and their wives had children, who grew up to love and serve God.

### **Questions**

How did God make the first man?

Why did God decide to make a woman?

How did God make the first woman?

Who were the first children?

Why was this family often unhappy?

Why was God sad about the people He had made?

Just before God sent the great Flood, how many good people were living on the earth?

Who were the members of this family?

What important job did they do for God?

Why do you think God created families?

### **Activity**

Compare Adam's family with Noah's family. What was the same? What were the differences? Draw up a comparison chart and write points for each family.



# God is Love

## Week 3

### Marriage is God's idea.

#### **Bible reference:**

Exodus 20 The Ten Commandments

Genesis 2:18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Genesis 24 A wife for Isaac

#### **Introduction**

Ask the children if they have ever been to a wedding.

Show pictures of weddings. Point out the various people in the bridal party: bride, groom, bridesmaids, groomsmen, flower girls, parents, important guests, priest, minister or pundit.

Revision: What did God say after he had made the first man (Adam)? Read Genesis 2:18

Ask the children whether they think a wedding is a happy or sad time. (It may be sad for the parents of the bride and groom because their children are leaving them but it is really a happy time because a new family is being started by two people who love each other very much.)

#### **Discussion**

Ask the children what a wedding means.

Have prepared the following, written in large print on a large sheet of paper. Read it together.

A wedding means:

- A man and a woman are come together to make a new family.
- They make promises to God to look after each other and love each other for the rest of their lives.
- They promise to provide a safe and happy home for children.
- Through marriage and having children the people are added to the world.

#### **Bible Lesson 1: God gives rules for families**

After Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, the children born to them also disobeyed God. Their children disobeyed God and the world gradually grew worse. God wanted to find a family who loved and obeyed him, who would carry out a special job. That family was the family of Noah. They were the only ones in the whole world at the time that loved and obeyed God. God chose them to save the animals from the Great Flood which covered the whole earth. When the flood was over they were the only people left in the world. They stayed on the ark for a year

until the flood waters went down. Then they moved the animals out on to dry land. They built new homes for themselves.

Noah's sons and their wives had children. The names of Noah's sons were Shem, Ham and Japheth. From Shem's family, many years later, Abraham was chosen by God to be the father of a special group of people, the people of Israel. The people of Israel have a very special place in history because Jesus was born in their country, to Mary. God wanted the people of Israel to love and honour him, and not worship idols like the people in nearby countries.

God called a man named Moses to lead God's people to a special land he had for them. God called Moses on to a mountain where he gave a special list of rules for the people of Israel. These rules would help them to obey God and stay close to him. These rules are called the Ten Commandments. God still wants us to follow these rules today.

Can you find any rules for families in these commandments?

### **The Ten Commandments**

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, and if you are married, do not want someone else's husband or wife.

God wanted the people of Israel to obey these laws. God wanted every man and woman who married, to honour each other for the rest of their lives.

### **Activity**

1. Write down the two rules for husbands and wives.
2. Write down the rule that God gives to children.

### **Bible Lesson 2: A wife for Isaac**

Abraham had a son called Isaac. When Isaac was old enough to be married, and Abraham wanted to find a wife for Isaac, a wife who loved God. How could Abraham find the right wife for Isaac? Let's find out from this story from the Bible.

One day Abraham called his servant and said, "It is time to find a wife for my son." Abraham was now living in the land of Canaan. He wanted Isaac to find a wife in Mesopotamia, the country of his own family, the country where he used to live. So he asked the servant if he would go there.

“That is a long way off,” said the servant. “Perhaps the girl would not be willing to come so far with me back to Canaan. Couldn’t Isaac go to Mesopotamia, choose a wife and live there?”

“Never!” Abraham insisted. “God has brought me here and promised to give this land to my children and my children’s children. Isaac must live here in this country.”

So the servant set out with ten camels on the long journey back to Mesopotamia, the country Abraham came from many years ago. It was late one afternoon when he arrived at the well outside the city where Abraham’s family lived. He ordered the camels to kneel down, close by the well. Then he began to pray:

“God, please help me to choose the right wife for Isaac. The women will soon be coming to fetch water and I shall ask one for them for a drink. Please let the girl who gets me a drink and gets water for my camels, be the bride that you have chosen.”

As Abraham’s servant finished praying he heard footsteps coming towards the well. He looked up to see a beautiful lady walk towards the well with her empty water-pot on her shoulder. As she filled the water-pot the servant hurried forward.

“Please may I have a drink?” he asked.

The lady gave the servant a drink of water. Then she noticed the camels.

“Shall I get your camels a drink too?” she offered and she began to fill the drinking trough for the camels.

The servant was so happy. His prayer had been answered.

“What is your name?” he asked.

“Rebekah,” she said. “I am the granddaughter of Nahor.”

The servant went to his bag and brought out expensive jewelry. He put the jewelry on Rebekah.

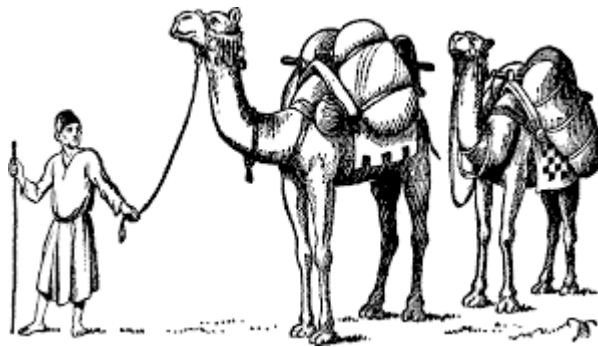
Rebekah took the servant home to her parents and the servant told them how Abraham had sent him to find a wife for Isaac. They knew Abraham and knew that he was a good man. Rebekah’s father gave permission for Rebekah to go to Canaan with the servant to marry Isaac. With many tears and kisses they said goodbye to Rebekah. A family friend, someone who had looked after Rebekah since she was a little girl, went with her on the long journey to meet her husband.

At last they arrived at the place where Isaac lived. From her camel she could see someone walking in the fields. The servant told Rebekah that it was Isaac.

Isaac looked up and saw the camels. The moment Isaac met Rebekah he loved her, and he gladly made her his wife.

## Discussion

- How do you think Rebekah would have felt coming into a strange country?
- What could Isaac's family do to make her feel at home? (Being kind and thoughtful, listening if she feels 'homesick' and wants to talk about her family; helping her to learn their language.)
- Although Rebekah was a long way from her family, she was not lonely because she now had Isaac as her husband and best friend. Let's read what the Bible says about this in Genesis 2:18.
- Abraham believed that God had a special woman for Isaac back in his old country. Christians believe that God has a special partner for each one of us, and when we walk in obedience to God we will find that special person.



## Activity

Draw the road from Canaan to Mesopotamia. Draw what happened at the beginning of the journey, along the way, and at the end of the journey.

# God is Love

## Week 4

### Joining a family through adoption

#### Bible references

2 Samuel 9 King David adopted Mephibosheth

Exodus 2:1-16 Moses was adopted by Pharaoh's daughter

Psalms 68:5 God is a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows

Joshua 1:5 I will never leave you or forsake you.

Romans 8:15; Ephesians 1:5 When we accept Christ we are adopted into God's family

#### Introduction

We have been learning about God's plan for families. God wants everyone to be part of a family so that they can be loved, cared for and protected.

But sometimes sad things happen in families. It is very sad when a member of the family dies or goes away.

There are places in the world, in Africa for example, where there has been drought, famine, disease or war. Some children are left without parents, and some parents are left without children.

#### The story of Lydia and the Waitoto children (modern day story)

This is a true story about a girl called Lydia. Lydia lived with her family in an African country called Uganda. In this country there had been war for a long time. In 2004 something terrible happened in Lydia's family. Violent men entered her village of Palabek, close to the border with South Sudan. They killed Lydia's father and mother and her uncles and aunts.

Lydia and her six brothers and sisters managed to save themselves by running away into the bush. They hid there until it was safe to come out. They went back to the village and found their grandmother. She was one of the few adults who had survived.

The grandmother was too old to look after the seven children by herself so asked an aunt in the city of Kampala to take the children. So the seven children traveled eight hours to the big city of Kampala to live with their aunt. The aunt worked as a housemaid. She did not earn a lot of money but managed to buy enough food for the children. But then the aunt lost her job, and she could no longer afford to look after the children.

The aunt had heard of a group of Christians who looked after orphans. The group was called 'Watoto' which means 'children' in one of the African languages. 'Watoto'

sets up villages where Christian mothers and fathers take in children who have no mother or father of their own.

Lydia's house mother was Mamma Santa. Lydia lived with Mama Santa and six other children in a simple, well-kept house. The house was built around a garden which everyone in the village shared. Lydia felt loved and cared for in the 'Watoto' house. Although she was sad that her mother and father had died, she was very happy in her new way of life. She went to school and did very well at school. Her school was only a few steps away in the centre of the village. She loved playing with her friends, but she also had jobs to do, like sweeping the veranda, doing the dishes and keeping her bedroom tidy.

Lydia is just one of thousands of orphan children who live in 'Watoto' villages. Each 'Watoto' village has a school and a medical clinic. After school the children play together, but also go to choir practice. The children learn songs and dances, and get the opportunity to join the 'Watoto Children's Choir'. The children in this choir get to go on trips to different places where they put on concerts, singing Christian songs and telling their stories. They always tell people how thankful they are to God for giving them a new family and new opportunities.

Although the war in Uganda is now over, there are still many people dying of disease, and there are still many orphans that the 'Watoto' villages continue to care for.

### **Discussion**

- How did Lydia feel when her mother and father died?
- Why do you think she felt happy in the 'Watoto' village?
- (Points to consider: she had a new mother and father who loved her; she had the opportunity to learn about God)
- Read Psalm 68:5
- Sometimes children lose their mother or father, but the Christian church is like a big family, where there are mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters to love and care for those who have lost a member of their family.
- The Bible also tells us that God is a father and we are his children. God is the best father in the whole world. How does God show us that he is our father?

### **What is adoption?**

As we have just read in the true story of Lydia, children sometimes lose their parents. When children go to live with new parents, we say that they are 'adopted' into a new family.

To be adopted means to become a part of a new family.

Children are sometimes adopted by members of the family, such as grandparents or aunts and uncles. Sometimes children are adopted by another family if their own

parents die, or if their own family cannot look after them, as we heard in the story of Lydia.

Here are two Bible stories that tell us about children who went to live with another family.

### **Bible Lesson 1: Mephibosheth**

In the Old Testament we can read about a king called Saul. He was chosen by God to be king over God's people, the Israelites. King Saul had a grandson called Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was a little lame prince. He could not walk because he had been injured as a baby. His carer had accidentally dropped him while carrying him.

When King Saul became too old to be king, David became king of Israel. David had been a good friend of King Saul's son, Jonathan. Jonathan had a little boy called Mephibosheth. But Jonathan died in battle, leaving Mephibosheth without a father. King David felt sad for Mephibosheth. He wanted to help him. He asked for Mephibosheth to be brought to the palace.

"Don't be afraid," King David said to him. "I will be kind to you seeing that I was such a good friend of your father. You shall live in my palace and eat at my table every day, just as if you were my own son. When you grow up I will give to you the land that belonged to your grandfather, King Saul."

Mephibosheth lived very happily in the king's palace. Even though he could not walk, he was happy because of King David's love and kindness.

### **Questions**

Who was Mephibosheth?

What happened to his father?

What did King David do for Mephibosheth?

### **Bible Lesson 2: Baby Moses**

"Miriam, we will have to hide our baby."

"Why, Mummy?" Miriam asked.

"King Pharaoh says he will kill every baby boy who is an Israelite," the mother answered. "We live in Egypt but our fathers and grandfather 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 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. The mother put the baby in the basket and hid it among the reeds.

"Miriam, please stay here and watch over our baby," she said.

Miriam stayed nearby and looked after her baby brother.

One day the daughter of the king, the princess, 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.

### **Questions**

In which country was Miriam and her family living?

Where did the family used to live?

Why was it dangerous for baby Moses to be living in Egypt?

How did the mother and Miriam try to protect baby Moses?

Who saw Moses on the river?

Why did she want to adopt the baby?

How did Miriam help?

### **Adoption into God’s family**

When we ask Jesus to come into our lives, we have a new family. All those who have given their lives to Jesus are part of that family. It’s like being adopted into God’s family. We become children of God.



# God is Love

## Week 5

### Loyalty in a family

#### Bible references:

Ruth 1:6 – 4:22

#### Bible Lesson: Ruth and Naomi

In the Old Testament there is a story about a family that experienced sadness. The family lived in Bethlehem. The father was Elimelech and his wife was Naomi. They had two sons. One year the harvest was so poor that Elimelech could not get enough food for his family. So they decided to leave Israel until the rain came again and in the mean time they would go and live in the country of Moab. Their sons grew healthy and strong and there was always enough to eat. When the sons were old enough they got married to young ladies from the country of Moab.

But then came sad times. A sickness came to the village, and Elimelech and his two sons died. Now Naomi was in a foreign land with no husband. Her own family was back in Israel. Naomi heard that there was plenty of food in Israel once again, and she now wanted to go back to Bethlehem to be with her own family.

Naomi's daughters-in-law were called Orpah and Ruth.

Naomi explained to them, "I must go to my own land where I can get food. You have been very kind to me, but now it is time for you both to go and live with your own families here in this land."

"I will come with you," said Ruth. "I want to stay with you wherever you go. I will make your people my own, and take your God as my own God."

"No. You must stay here with your people," said Naomi.

"No," said Ruth. "I want to come with you."

Ruth went with Naomi to Naomi's land. Ruth had to work hard to get food. Ruth picked up grains of wheat all day long. Naomi was too old to work, so Ruth gave food to Naomi.

"God will look after us," said Ruth.

Then one day, a kind man called Boaz said to Ruth, "You may work in my field. You may have all the grain you want."

"Thank you," said Ruth. "You are very kind."

Boaz fell in love with Ruth. They were married. They had a little baby boy called Obed.



### Questions

Why was Naomi's family living in Moab?

Where did they come from?

What sad thing happened in Moab?

What is a daughter-in-law?

What were the names of Naomi's daughters-in-law?

Which daughter-in-law wanted to go with Naomi back to Israel?

Why did Naomi say to Ruth, "Go back to your mother and father?"

Why would Israel be very different for Ruth?

Naomi was quite old when they went back to Israel. How did Ruth help Naomi?

### Discussion

When Ruth decided to go with Naomi, she was being loyal to her family.

What is loyalty?

- Loyalty is staying true to someone
- Loyalty is standing up for something or someone you believe in.

God rewarded Ruth for her loyalty. How?

God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends, through good and bad times. People who are loyal to each other stay friends forever.

How do show our friends that we are loyal?

Would we tell our friend that we no longer want to play with them because we have made a new friend?

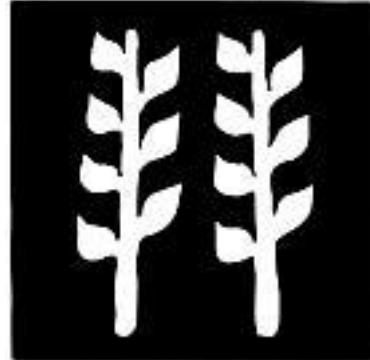
### Activity

Draw two friends.

Write underneath the picture,

"I am being loyal to my friend when...."

## God is Provider (5 weeks)



### Outcomes:

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The definition of 'provider'
- The definition of 'faithful'
- That God is a faithful provider
- That we can always depend on him
- That we can trust God because he is faithful

### Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

The sea; sea creatures

### Link between "God is Provider" and the topics:

God created water on the second day of creation. He created sea creatures on Day 5. The sea provides food and medicines for our use.

### Values:

Faith; care for the environment; generosity, thankfulness

# God is Provider

## Week 1

### God is a faithful provider. We can always depend on Him.

#### Bible references

Exodus 15:22-27 Provision of water in the desert. Bitter water made sweet.

Luke 11:5-13 Ask and keep on asking

#### Introduction

The Bible tells us that God is faithful.

Does anyone know what that means?

Yes, it means that God will do everything he says he will do. God keeps all his promises.

What are some examples of promises from God?

God tells us that he will love and care for us. He tells us that he will provide food for us.

The Bible also says that God is our 'provider'.

Does anyone know what 'provider' means?

Yes, it means that God will give us the things we need. Sometimes God might not provide the thing we need straight away. We have to have patience and wait for him to provide.

#### Bible Lesson: Water in the desert

God's people, the Israelites, were travelling through the desert. They had been prisoners in the land of Egypt, under the cruel Pharaoh, but God had chosen Moses to lead them out of Egypt to a new land.

This story begins just three days after God had opened the Red Sea, and the Israelites had crossed the sea on dry land, escaping from Pharaoh's army. Now they were walking through the desert with all their animals. It was hot, dry and sandy and they had been travelling three days with no water. They would have to find water soon or they would die.

Moses prayed to God. They came to a place called Marah. There was water here. The people rushed to get a drink. But when they tasted the water it was too bitter to drink. A bitter taste is not very nice at all. Some plants taste bitter. Many bitter plants are poisonous. The people knew this, and knew they couldn't drink the water. The taste may have come from a poisonous plant growing in the water, and it could make them very sick.

The people were angry with Moses for leading them to this place. "What are we going to drink?" they said.

Moses was thirsty too, but he prayed to the Lord again. He knew that God was leading them and that he would take care of them.

God showed Moses a tree. God said to Moses, "Cut down this tree and throw it into the water."

Moses did exactly as God said. He cut down the tree and threw it into the water. Moses tasted the water. The water was now sweet instead of bitter. He told the people to drink. They drank as much as they wanted.

The Israelites had just learned their first lesson. They must trust God even when things seem very bad. They now understood a little more about God's faithfulness.

The Israelites went on with their journey. They came to a place called Elim and they rested there. There were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees in Elim. They put up their tents in the shade of the palm trees and they had plenty of water to drink.

### Questions

1. Why were the Israelites traveling in the desert?
2. Why did they complain to Moses?
3. What miracle did God do for them?
4. Was God faithful in providing water?
5. Did they have to wait for God to provide the water?
6. Why do you think God didn't provide water for them on the first day? (He wanted them to trust Him.)

### Discussion

Sometimes God doesn't answer our prayers straight away, because he wants us to learn to trust him. That is, to believe that he will look after us, even if things are not going well.

Read Luke 11:5-13 Ask and keep on asking

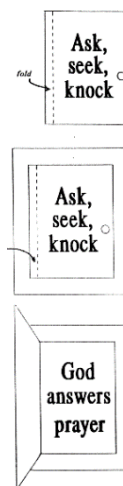
God tells us to:

1. Ask (to pray to him)
2. Seek (Keep looking to God for an answer.)
3. Knock (Don't give up. Keep on asking and believing that God will look after you.)

### Activity

Make a card with an opening door.

- a) Make a door from coloured paper.
- b) Attach door to white card along left-hand edge.
- c) Open the door and find a message inside.



# God is Provider

## Week 2

### God is a faithful provider. We can always depend on Him.

#### Bible references

Exodus 16 Provision of quails and manna.

Job 36:26-31 The greatness of God; His faithfulness in providing through the creation.

#### Bible Lesson: God provides quails and manna in the desert

The people of Israel had seen God provide for them by a miracle. They were travelling through the desert to a new land, but had run out of water. God did a miracle for them and turned bitter water to sweet water that they could drink. God showed his faithfulness again six weeks later. This time the people were desperately hungry. They forgot about God's faithfulness in providing water just six weeks before. They forgot to trust in God. They started complaining. Instead of telling God they were hungry and asking him to help them, they complained to Moses.

"Why did you bring us here?" they said. "We wish we had stayed in Egypt. At least we had food there."

Moses prayed to God. God spoke to Moses. God said, "I will send meat in the evening, and in the morning I will send you bread from heaven."

Then Moses talked to the people. "God will take care of you," he said. "Tomorrow He will send you bread from heaven."

That evening birds like small chickens, called quails, came in large numbers to the camp. The people were able to catch them and eat them. That night God sent a layer of dew over the camp site. When the layer of dew evaporated in the sun, the ground was covered with fine white flakes.

The next morning the people hurried out of their tents to see the bread which God had promised. They saw the small round flakes all over the ground. The people shouted, "Manna, manna?" In their language it meant "What is it, what is it?" Because they didn't know what it was the people called the food 'manna', but Moses said, "This is the bread that the Lord has given you."

The people gathered the manna in baskets. It tasted sweet. Every day manna came from heaven, and every day the people ate it.

Each person was instructed to gather as much as they needed for that day. God wanted them to trust Him each day for their daily food. Some were greedy and disobedient and wanted to gather extra, "just in case God didn't provide tomorrow,"

they thought. But the next day they found that the extra bread they had gathered had worms in it.

On the sixth day they were allowed to gather twice as much and save it for the next day, because the seventh day was a day of rest. When they ate the manna on the seventh day there were no worms in it.

Some people did not listen to Moses and did not gather extra food on the sixth day. These people had nothing to eat on the seventh day.

God kept providing for his people in this way for forty years. He kept providing in this way until they reached the new land where there was plenty of food.

God has promised to provide for the whole of His creation. Read Job 36:26-31 (Good News Bible.)

Some people in certain parts of the world have too much food, while in other places people have too little. God expects people with too much to share with those who have too little. That is another way God provides...through people!

# God is Provider

## Week 3

### God is a faithful provider. He provides everything we need.

#### Bible reference

Matthew 6:25 - 37

#### Introduction

Ask the children if they know what it means to worry.

Worrying is when we keep thinking about our problems instead of trusting God to provide for all of our needs.

We learned last week how the Israelites kept worrying about water and food instead of trusting that God would take care of them.

What are some of the things that we worry about?

What should we do?

#### Bible Lesson: God cares for the birds

Read Matthew 6:25-34

God does not want us to worry about what we eat, drink or anything else. God will take care of our needs. Let's think about birds. They do not worry about what they are going to eat at all, but every day when they wake up they are about to find the insects that they need to eat. God does not let them go hungry. Since we are God's most precious treasure then He will not let us go hungry either. Worrying will not add any time to our lives, but will only take away from the time that we could spend serving God.

Matthew 6:28-30

God takes care of the flowers of the Earth just like He takes care of the birds. Flowers do not have to do anything to make themselves bloom, they just do. God makes sure that they get enough sunlight and rain to grow. He cares about them and takes care of them. God also cares about us and takes care of us. We do not need to worry about the clothes we wear because God will provide for our needs.

Read Matthew 6:31-32

Here the Bible is telling us that the Lord knows what we need. How amazing is that? God knows exactly what we need before we even ask for it.



Read Matthew 6:33-34

God wants us to seek His kingdom and when we do we will learn more about Him and will follow His will for our lives. When we are seeking God, He will make sure that we have everything that we need. He loves us and will provide for our needs.

God provides for us through His creation, but there are times when God can do a miracle, even though we are not living in the Bible days.

**Art/Craft**

Make a 'God is Provider' group collage. Children can draw birds, flowers, animals and people. They can cut them out and stick them on the collage, with the Bible verse Matthew 6:26.

# God is Provider

## Week 4

**God is a faithful provider. He wants us to trust Him.**

### **Bible references**

Exodus 17 Water from a rock.

Psalms 119:86 All God's commands can be trusted.

Matthew 6:25-27 Look at the birds

### **Revision**

- How did God miraculously provide for the people of Israel as they travelled through the desert?
- What did the people learn about God as a result of these miracles?
- Would you expect the people to have trusted God the next time they found themselves with no food or water?
- Do people always trust God even though they know He is faithful?
- What does God say about these things in Matthew 6:25-27?

### **Activity: Trust exercise**

Prepare a selection of foods in glass containers.

EXAMPLE

1st glass: lemon juice

2nd glass: breakfast cereal

3rd glass: milk

4th glass: spicy sauce

5th glass: salt water

Establish which foods are liked/disliked. Ask one child to volunteer to be the taster. The taster must wear a blind-fold, and TRUST someone to give him a sample of a pleasant tasting food.

After the exercise, ask the taster whether he/she found it easy to trust.

Why is trusting not always easy?

Can we trust God?

### **Bible Lesson: Water from a rock**

God's people, the Israelites were travelling from Egypt to a special land which God had promised to them. Much of the country over which they travelled was desert. Occasionally they would come across some water. They would drink as much as they needed, and then replenish the supply of fresh water in their skin bags. This time, however, they had run out of water, and there was no water in sight. The people were thirsty. They were also afraid of dying there in the desert. They had forgotten about

the time God had provided water for them just three days after crossing the Red Sea. They had forgotten about the bitter water that God had made sweet to drink. They started complaining to Moses.

"Have we come out here in the desert to die?" they asked.

Moses prayed to God. God spoke back to Moses:

"Take your stick and go to the big rock at Mount Sinai. Hit the rock with a stick and water will come out of it. Then the people and the animals will be able to drink."

Moses did as God had said. Water gushed out of the rock and all the people drank as much as they needed.

When we trust God He always gives us what we need. He never lets us down. God is faithful.

### **Activity**

#### **Fill in the missing word:**

1. God always gives us the things we need. He is our \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Water came out of the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Moses hit the rock with a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Israelites found it difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ God, even though they had seen Him do great miracles before.
5. Jesus said, "Do not worry about food or \_\_\_\_\_."

# God is Provider

## Week 4

### God is a faithful provider. He wants us to trust in Him.

#### Bible references

Psalm 56:3 I put my trust in You.

Psalm 20:7 We trust in the power of the Lord our God. (GNB)

Matthew 17:24 – 27 Money from a fish

#### Bible Lesson: Money from a Fish

The twelve disciples travelled around the country with Jesus. They watched Him heal people. They listened to Him tell stories about God's kingdom. Jesus and the disciples needed many things, but Jesus always provided.

The disciples could have worried about food and clothes. After all, they didn't work as fishermen or tax-collectors any more. They didn't go to work each day to earn money. But Jesus told them not to worry. "Your Heavenly Father knows what you need," he said.

Jesus always made sure the disciples had the things they needed. He even provided money to pay their taxes. This was the money everyone had to pay to the king.

One day, a tax-collector came to Peter. The tax-collector said, "Does Jesus pay taxes?"

Peter answered, "Yes, Jesus pays taxes."

Peter went to Jesus to ask about the tax money, but Jesus already knew what Peter was going to ask.

"Go down to the lake," said Jesus, "and do some fishing. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch. Inside the mouth of the fish you will find a coin. Take that coin and give it to the tax-collector. That will be enough to pay taxes for all of us."

Peter did as Jesus said, and sure enough, Peter pulled up a fish with a coin in its mouth. God had once again provided the money that they needed.

#### Brainstorm

When we find it difficult to trust God, we can remember how faithful He has been in the past.

Think of as many Bible stories as possible which remind us of God's faithfulness.

Think of times when God has been faithful to you or your family in the past.

**Activity****Fill in the missing words:**

1. Jesus said, "Pull up the \_\_\_\_\_ fish you catch and open its mouth."
2. The tax-collector asked \_\_\_\_\_ whether Jesus paid taxes.
3. Peter pulled up a fish with a \_\_\_\_\_ in its mouth.
4. This story shows us that God always \_\_\_\_\_ for His children.

**Art**

Draw a large fish with its mouth open. Make a coin rubbing, cut it out and stick it in the mouth of the fish.

# God is our Saviour

(3 weeks)



## 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 topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Countries of the world: Australia and New Zealand

## 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.

## Values:

Faith; respect for truth; cultural understanding; thankfulness

# Easter Week 1: Jesus rides into Jerusalem

**Bible references:** Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19

## Introduction

In a few weeks we will be celebrating Easter.

Why do we celebrate Easter?

Which are the special days in the Easter celebration? (Good Friday and Easter Sunday)

On the Sunday before Easter Sunday, many churches celebrate Palm Sunday. This is when we remember when Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey and all the people honoured him by cheering and waving palm branches. Here is the story from the Bible.

## Bible Lesson: Jesus on a donkey

As they approached Jerusalem Jesus sent out two disciples. He said, "Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you get there, you will find a young donkey tied up. No one has ever ridden on this donkey before. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says anything to you, tell them that the Lord needs it."

The disciples went and did what Jesus told them to do. They found a young donkey tied at a doorway. They untied it. Some people asked, "What are you doing?" The disciples answered as Jesus had told them to do. So the people let them go.

The disciples brought the young donkey to Jesus. They threw their coats over it Jesus got on the donkey. Usually a donkey that had never been ridden before would want to throw a person off its back. But this one didn't. It stayed calm and let Jesus ride on its back.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem a very large crowd spread their coats on the road. Others cut down palm branches and put them on the road. Some waved palm branches and shouted praise to God.

"Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven."

The children shouted too. They were happy that Jesus was coming to their city. They didn't know that terrible things would happen to Him there. Jesus knew, but He kept riding on into Jerusalem anyway.

The children came into the temple shouting praise to Jesus and singing, and the leaders were angry at so much noise from the children. They told Jesus to tell the children to be quiet, but Jesus said, "No, the children are doing the right thing. He said if the children didn't praise Jesus, even the stones on the roadway would begin to sing and praise God!"

## Discussion

How can children praise God today?

The children welcomed Jesus into the city. How can we welcome Jesus into our lives today?

(He wants us to ask Him into our lives. His Holy Spirit can live in us and stay with us forever.)

### **Art/craft**

#### **Hosanna tube puppets**

Puppets can be made from cardboard tubes as shown. A tube can be made by rolling and taping cardboard. Draw a face on the tube. Attach pieces of cotton wool for hair. Dress the tube with fabric or coloured wrapping paper. To make arms, push a long pipe cleaner through prepared holes, or just cut arms from paper and stick on. Place a small piece of fern in one hand to represent a palm branch.





# God is our Saviour

## Easter Week 2: Eating together with his friends

### **Bible reference**

John 12

Matthew 26; Mark 14

### **Introduction**

Last week we heard how the people shouted praise to Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The children especially were excited to see Jesus coming and joined in the celebration.

To show we love and appreciate someone we sometimes give them a gift. Can you think of times when we give gifts to people we love?

Today we are going to hear about a lady who wanted to show how much she loved Jesus by giving him something very expensive. Her name was Mary. (This Mary was not the mother of Jesus but a different Mary.)

### **Bible Lesson: Mary's gift**

Mary had listened to Jesus whenever she could. She wanted to know more about God. She appreciated Jesus very much. She had heard Jesus say that he was going to die. She wanted to show him how much she appreciated him. She took a lot of money that she had saved carefully, and went and bought a jar of very expensive perfume. Mary took the expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet, and then on his head. Then she wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the sweet smell of perfume.

Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, didn't like what Mary did. He loved money more than anything, and it would be his love of money that was going to cause him to betray Jesus. Judas said, "This perfume should have been sold and the money given to the poor!"

He didn't say this because he cared about the poor. He said it because he loved money and thought he would like to have that money for himself.

"Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "The perfume was meant for the day I die and am buried. You will always have poor people but you won't always have me."

The day came to celebrate the Passover Feast. This was the celebration of the time when the Israelites were set free from slavery in the land of Egypt. This feast took place at the same time every year.

Jesus sent out two of his disciples. He said to them, "Go into the city. A man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. He will show you a large upstairs room. Prepare for us to eat there.

The disciples went into the city. They found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover meal. When evening came, Jesus arrived with his disciples.

Jesus knew that Judas was going to do something bad to him. He was going to tell the soldiers where Jesus was so that they could capture him. Judas had agreed to do this for thirty silver coins. While they were eating Judas left to go and do what he had planned to do.

At this meal Jesus did something special for his disciples to help them always remember what he was going to do. He was going to die on the cross.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to his disciples and said, "Take it and eat it. This is my body."

Then he took the cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. All of them drank from it. "This is my blood poured out for you to forgive the sins of many." Then they sang a hymn and went to the Mount of Olives to pray.

While they were praying Judas came up to Jesus and kissed him. This was the sign to the soldiers that this was Jesus. The soldiers arrested Jesus and took him away. Jesus had never done anything wrong, but he was sentenced to death. The leaders said that he had to die because he said he was the king of the Jews. He died on a cross alongside two thieves who had also been sentenced to death.

Jesus died to take the punishment for every wrong thing that anyone has ever done. He did this because all people have sinned, and cannot be a friend of God. But when we ask Jesus to forgive us he takes away our sin and we can be friends with God.

### **Questions**

Why did Mary pour perfume on the feet of Jesus?

Why did Judas say that the perfume should have been sold and given to the poor?

What was the Passover celebration?

What did Jesus say about the bread and wine that he shared with the disciples at the Passover meal?

How did Judas betray Jesus?

Why did the leaders want Jesus to be killed?

Why did God allow his son Jesus to die?

# God is our Saviour

## Easter Week 3: Jesus is alive and appears to his friends

### Bible reference

Luke 24

John 20

### Introduction

At Easter we remember the time when Jesus died on the cross for us, and that he came alive again three days later.

On which day do we remember when Jesus died?

On which day do we remember when Jesus came alive again?

Who sentenced Jesus to death?

Why did God the Father allow this to happen to his son?

On which day did Jesus come alive again?

### Bible Lesson: Jesus is alive!

Not all the leaders hated Jesus. There was one leader, Joseph of Arimathea, who loved Jesus. He did not like what the rest of the leaders had done. He went to Pilate, the governor, to ask if he could have the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission for Joseph to take the body. Joseph took some fine linen cloth and soaked it in expensive perfume. He wrapped the linen cloth around Jesus' body. Joseph was a rich man. He owned a lovely garden just below the hill of Calvary where Jesus died. In the garden there was a cave cut into the rock. This was a tomb which he planned as a place to bury members of his family when they died. Joseph carried the body of Jesus to the tomb and carefully laid Jesus' body inside it. There was a huge round stone next to the tomb. Joseph rolled the stone in front of the cave to cover the opening. Then he went home.

The next was Saturday. The friends of Jesus were very sad. They did remember that Jesus had said, "In three days I shall rise again."

On Sunday morning at first light, some women who had been friends of Jesus wanted to go to the tomb to put more spices and perfume on the body. But how could they get into the tomb when the huge stone was in front of the entrance? God took care of that. Before the women arrived at the tomb there was a great earthquake. The earth shook and the stone rolled away. The angel of the Lord came down from heaven. He was bright and shining and he was dressed in clothing as white as the snow. Jesus was not in the tomb. The tomb was empty!

There were soldiers guarding at the tomb. They were filled with fear and ran back to the city. The women came to the tomb and saw that the body was not there. They

saw two angels. "Do not be afraid," one of the angels said. Jesus is not here. He has risen." Go and tell his disciples that they will see him." Quickly the two ladies ran to tell the disciples.

On Sunday evening the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders who had put Jesus to death. Suddenly Jesus came in and stood amongst them. He said, "May peace be with you!"

Then he showed them his wounds in his hands where the nails had been, and the wound in his side where the soldiers had cut him after he died. The disciples knew that it was Jesus. They remember now how he had said that after three days he would come alive again.

"Do you have anything to eat?" asked Jesus.

They gave him a piece of cooked fish. Jesus took it and ate it. They knew he was not a ghost!

After his death, Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of 40 days. Then he was taken up to heaven. Jesus took the disciples to a mountain top where they watched him go up in a cloud. While he was going up they kept looking at the sky. Suddenly two men dressed in white clothing stood beside them. They said, "Why are you standing here looking at the sky?" Jesus has gone back to heaven. But he will come back one day in the same way you saw him go."

### **Discussion**

Jesus had a new and different body that allowed him to pass through locked doors, and to appear and disappear whenever he chose. The Bible teaches that one day we too shall have different bodies that will allow us to do things we cannot now do.

Where will we be when we have this new type of body?

What will heaven be like?

Why did Jesus show the disciples his hands and side?

Jesus will always have the wounds he received on the cross and when we see him we will be reminded of how much it cost the Son of God to pay the price for all the wrong things we have done.

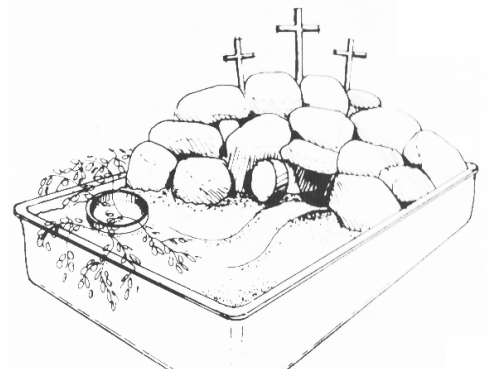
If Jesus has gone back to heaven, is he still with us here in the world today?

How can Jesus be with us today?

Can he still help us today as he helped people in the Bible?

### **Easter activity**

Make a 3D model of the garden where Jesus was buried.



## God is Pure and Holy (4 weeks)



### Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God gave us rules to follow as part of His special plan for the world
- Disobeying God's rules is called 'sin'
- Sadness, pain and suffering came into the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience
- In the Old Testament, God gave His people ten important rules for living. These rules are still important today.
- In the New Testament we learn of the new rule that Jesus added to the Ten Commandments: to love others

### Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Rules: road rules; safety rules; hygiene rules; rules for good manners

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

It is wise to follow rules that are set by people who are looking after us. This includes home rules, school rules and rules set by the government. It is also wise to follow rules for safety. A pure life is obedience to God. God sets rules that are for our good and we can learn about those rules by reading the Bible.

### Values:

Integrity; honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; goodness, holiness

# God is Pure and Holy

## Week 1

### God's rules were broken.

**Sin separates us from God but Jesus has made a way back to God.**

#### **Bible references**

Genesis 3 God's pure world spoiled by disobedience

Psalms 145:17 The Lord is righteous in everything He does.

Psalms 18:30 God's way is perfect.

1 Peter 1:19; Hebrews 9:14 Jesus was without sin.

1 John 1:9 Jesus bridged the gap between people and God.

#### **Preparation**

Prepare the drawings for the story. Make them into large visual aids.

#### **Discussion**

Discuss things that are clean and pure.

EXAMPLES: white clothes that have just been washed; crystal clear water.

#### **Experiment**

Prepare a bowl full of pure water.

What kinds of things could make this water impure?

- solid particles (*e.g. sawdust, wood chips, dirt*)
- other liquids

How could we get rid of the things that make the water impure?

- Straining to remove things that float: (*sawdust, wood chips*)
- Using a funnel and paper filter to remove finer particles: (*dirt*)
- Boiling muddy water and collecting the water droplets made by the steam.

#### **Definition**

We say that God is 'pure' because He has no sin. We can also say that He is 'holy'.

#### **Bible Lesson: Adam and Eve break God's rule**

Just as this water began as being pure, the first people that God made, Adam and Eve, were pure when they were first created. They never did anything wrong. They had no sin. God set a rule for them to follow. They were not allowed to eat the fruit from a certain tree. Then one day, Satan came along and asked the man and woman, Adam and Eve, to disobey God's rule. He wanted them to follow him instead of God. Because the man and the woman obeyed Satan, their lives became impure. Everyone born after them also had impure lives.

This created a big problem. God was pure, but people were impure. This meant people could no longer be friends with God. That's why God sent Jesus. By forgiving us for our

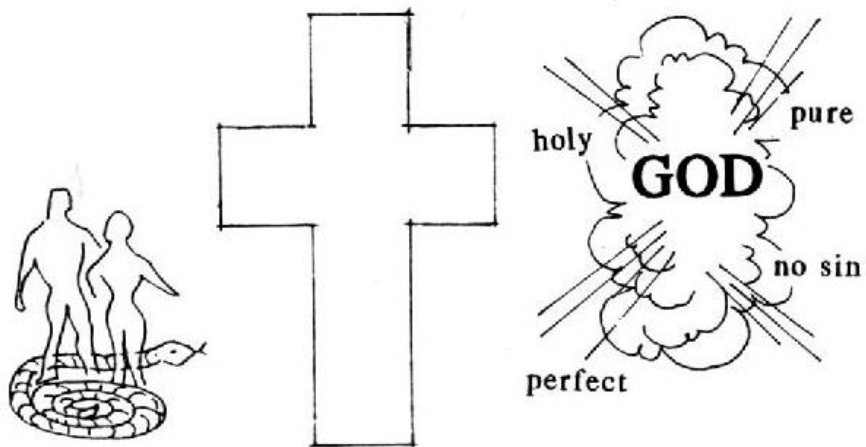
sin, Jesus can remove the impurity from our lives, and we can be friends with God again.

When Jesus died, He was really being punished for something He didn't do. Jesus had never done anything wrong and yet He was being punished as a guilty person. God had planned, from long ago, that Jesus would take the punishment that the people of the world really deserved. Everyone in the world has done something wrong, but Jesus will forgive everyone who asks to be forgiven. He can forgive sins because of His death on the cross.

When God created the world, everything was perfect. Even Adam and Eve were perfect. However, Adam and Eve listened to the wicked serpent. They chose to obey him instead of God. When they did this, a huge gap was formed between the people and God. Adam and Eve could no longer be friends with God because God was perfect and without sin, but they now had sin in their lives. It was not just Adam and Eve who were sinful, but also their children, their children's children and so on. Now there was a huge gap between people and God.

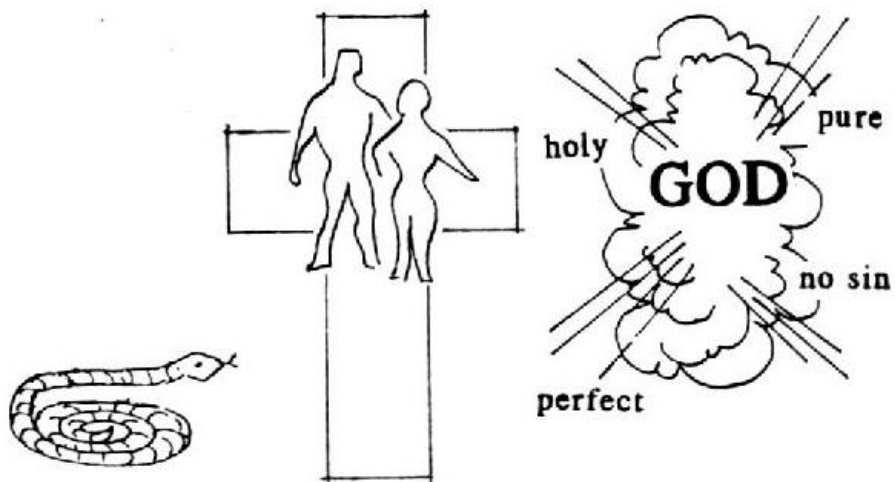


God made a special plan so that the people He loved so much could once again be friends with Him. He sent His son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that people could be forgiven for their sin.



The cross became like a bridge. It was the way back to God. Now, when people understood why Jesus died, they could ask Jesus to forgive them for their sin and become friends with Jesus. Being friends with Jesus is being friends with God, because Jesus and God are one.

People can now walk across the bridge to be with God. They can do this by asking Jesus to forgive them for their sins. Then they must ask Jesus to be their special friend.



**Activity:** Ask the student to explain the three sets of drawings above.



# God is Pure and Holy

## Week 2

### God's rules.

#### Preparation:

Draw a large mountain on a very large sheet of paper as a visual aid.

Have ready the Ten Commandments written on ten pieces of paper. As you teach about the Ten Commandments, stick the pieces of paper one by one on the mountain, starting from the top.

#### Bible reference

Exodus 20

#### Introduction

Today we are going to talk about rules.

Why do we need rules?

Let's think of some rules that we follow in a game.

What happens when a person starts playing soccer, rugby or netball for the first time? Yes, they must learn the rules. They often learn the rules at first by breaking them, getting penalised (free goal kick, free pass for example), and then they try not to break the rules again.

What are the rules for netball? (e.g. no pushing, no running with the ball.)

What are the rules for soccer? (e.g. not touching the ball with the hand, not ripping up another player.)

What are the rules for rugby? (e.g. no punching or kicking people, don't throw the ball forward, must throw straight.)

Now let's think of rules we follow in school.

What are some of the rules in your home?

What are some rules that the government sets for our country? Who makes sure that people keep the rules?

#### Bible Lesson: The Ten Commandments

God's people, the Israelites, were once slaves in Egypt, under a ruler called a Pharaoh. This Pharaoh made the Israelites work hard in the hot sun making bricks and constructing buildings. The Great Pyramids are an example of the buildings built by slaves.

Then God decided that His people had suffered long enough. He chose Moses to lead the people out of Egypt to a new land of their own. God helped them escape through His miraculous power. He did miracles like drying up the Red Sea so that they could

cross to the other side. Then the Red Sea closed up again so that Pharaoh's army could not catch them.

Now they were travelling to their new land. They would be travelling for a long time. God was going to make Israel a special nation. One day Jesus would be born into this nation. God wanted His people to stay pure and holy. He gave them some special rules for living called the Ten Commandments. Here's how it happened.

The leader that God had chosen for the Israelites at this time was Moses. With God's help, Moses was leading the people to the new land. One day they came to a big mountain called Mount Sinai. (Show the paper mountain that you have prepared.) They made a camp and put up their sleeping tents. Then Moses climbed up the high mountain to talk to God.

The mountain shook. A thick cloud covered it. There was thunder and lightning. God had come to the mountain in the cloud. God told Moses the rules He wanted to give His people. God promised to look after His people if they obeyed Him. These rules are called the Ten Commandments and these are good rules for us to live by today.

Here are the first three rules that God gave to Moses:

**Rule no. 1: "Love God and worship Him only".**

What is worship?

How can we worship God? (We can thank Him for His greatness; we can sing songs to Him.

This rule says that God is the only one we should worship. God does not want people to worship the sun, or spirits or other things.

**Activity:**

Ask the children to think of things we can say to God to show how we appreciate him, e.g.

We thank you God for .....

We love you because .....

**Rule no. 2: "Do not worship idols or things."**

God said, "Do not draw a picture or make a statue and worship it. Do not make a statue of anything and worship it."

Ask: What is an idol? What does an idol look like?

All the people in the countries around Israel made idols of wood, stone or metal to worship and pray to. God told Israel not to do that because the stones and statues can't see or hear. They are just pieces of wood, stone or metal.

Some people today think they are obeying God if they do not worship statues, yet they love money and things more than God. They might love their car, their house or the

sport they play more than God. These things can become an idol if we love them more than God.

**Rule no. 3: “Do not use God’s name as a swear word.”**

Names are important. God’s name is important. We must respect God’s name. We must be careful when we use God’s name and never use it for swearing. We must respect the names of the three persons of God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

**Activity**

Draw Mount Sinai covered with the cloud, and add lightning. Draw the Israelites tents around the base of the mountain.

# God is Pure and Holy

## Week 3

### God gives us rules (Rules 4-7)

#### Introduction

Ask the children if they remember:

Why God wanted to give rules to His people the Israelites?

Who talked to God on Mount Sinai?

What do we call the rules that God gave?

What were the first three commandments?

Show the paper mountain from last session with the first three commandments on it.

#### Bible Lesson: Commandments 4 – 7

##### Rule no. 4: “Keep God’s day holy”

God had told the Israelites that the seventh day of the week was to be a day of rest. Remember how God rested on the seventh day after He created the world in six days? This was an example for us to follow. God said, “Do not forget that the day of rest belongs to me. I am the Lord your God.”

The day of rest for the Israelites was called the ‘Sabbath’ day. It is our Saturday. God said that the people had to keep this day holy. They could do all their work on six days, but they must not work on the seventh day. Just as God had worked and created the world in six days, and rested on the seventh, so people must do the same.

People from Israel even today keep the Sabbath as the day of rest and the day for worshipping God. The Sabbath is Saturday. Some Christians today, the Seventh Day Adventists, also have their day of worship and rest on Saturday. Other Christians set aside Sunday because this was the day that Jesus came back to life again.

#### Discussion:

How can we make one day special and holy?

We can go to church and Sunday school; we can sing and pray to God and learn from the Bible; we can spend time with family and friends.

##### Rule no. 5: “Respect your father and your mother”

What does ‘respect’ mean?

We can respect both people and property. To respect property is to take care of it and to treat it as if it has value.

To treat a person with respect is much the same. We are for the feelings of that person and treat them kindly and politely. We appreciate them and show that we honour them.

How do we show respect to our parents and grandparents?

- Listen to them when they speak to you
- Speak to them in a polite way
- Do what they ask you to do
- Say thank you
- Be helpful
- Pray with your parents
- Pray for your parents and family members

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

**Rule no. 6: “Do not murder anyone”**

Every person is precious to God. God does not allow a person to kill another person. When God made animals and people on Day 6 of Creation, He made people more special than the animals because people and have a relationship with God. God gave permission for people to kill animals for food, but not to kill people.

**Rule no. 7: “Be faithful to the person you marry”**

To be faithful is to promise to stay with that person, and not leave them. God wants husbands and wives to love one another and to help one another, so that they can care for their children together. But sometimes sad things happen... a mother or father may die or has to leave. This is not God’s plan, but if it does happen, God promises to look after families who have lost a member.

Psalm 68:5 God is a Father of the fatherless and protector of widows.

# God is Pure and Holy

## Week 4

### God gives us rules (Rules 8-11)

#### **Introduction:**

Who has ever had something stolen from them? (Ask children to relate experiences.)  
How do you feel when someone steals something from you or your family?

#### **Rule no 8: “Do not steal.”**

There is a true story in the Bible about a man who Jesus met. His name was Zacchaeus. You will probably remember this story. Zacchaeus was a rich man. He made himself rich by stealing from other people. His job was to collect money from people to give to the government. This is called ‘tax’ money. The government needs tax money to build roads and hospitals for the community to use. Zacchaeus took more than he was supposed to and kept it for himself. When Jesus came to his town Zacchaeus climbed up a tree so that he could get a good view of Jesus walking by. But he did not expect Jesus to call him down from the tree. “I want to go to your house today,” said Jesus. As Jesus talked with Zacchaeus at his house, Zacchaeus knew that he had done wrong. He felt unhappy. Jesus told him that he could be forgiven for what he had done. Zacchaeus wanted Jesus to forgive him. He felt happy to be forgiven. Zacchaeus decided that from then on he would be honest and not steal. He gave back the money he had stolen.

Stealing is taking something that does not belong to you. It is taking something without asking.

Sometimes we may want to borrow something that belongs to another person. That’s OK, but we must ask the person first. If the person says “yes”, then we can use it, but we must take good care of it. And we must be sure to return it when we have finished using it.

#### **Question:**

What would you do if you borrowed something from someone and it broke or got damaged while you were using it?

#### **Story: Johnny and the missing pencils**

Johnny arrived at school and took the things he needed from his school bag. Today he was finishing off his project on reptiles. So far he had done four pages of beautiful drawings, and a piece of information about each reptile. Johnny loved drawing and was very good at it.

Recently Johnny had received for his birthday, a beautiful set of coloured pencils. Johnny was using his new pencils for the project.

Johnny picked up his pencil case. Something was wrong. He quickly unzipped it. To his horror, nearly all of the pencils had gone. He counted them. Only 5 left! Jonathan cried silently, hoping that no one would see him. But someone did see him.

"What's wrong, Johnny," asked his teacher.

Johnny explained what was wrong.

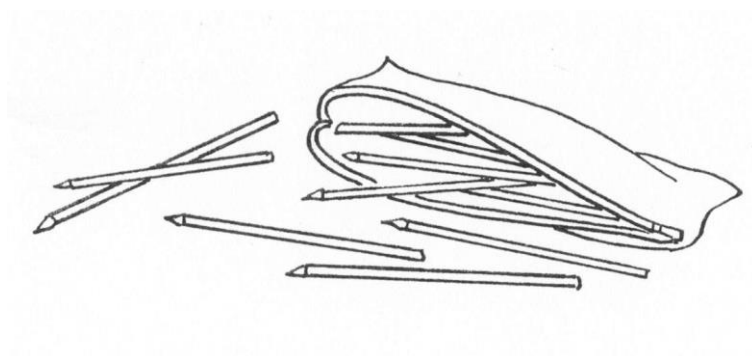
"I think we should pray and ask Jesus to show the person took the pencils, how wrong it was. Jesus knows how you feel too Johnny. We must trust that He will turn this bad thing into something good," said his teacher kindly.

There was a new boy in the school. His name was Thomas. He used to get into lots of trouble at his old school. But all of a sudden, at this new school, he felt bad about doing the things he had done before. Something inside him said, "Take the pencils back." Finally, he could stand it no longer. "I'll creep back after school when no one is there," he thought, "and put the pencils back in Johnny's pencil case."

After school, he crept into the classroom clutching the pencils. To his dismay, the teacher was working at her table.

"Can I help you, Thomas?" she asked. She saw the pencils, and knew immediately why he had come. But instead of punishing Thomas, the teacher said 'thank you' for returning the pencils. She also told Thomas about a special friend of hers who wanted to be Thomas's friend too. This friend, the teacher said, wanted to help Thomas. The friend, of course, was Jesus. Thomas was already sorry for what he had done. He told Jesus that he was sorry, and asked Jesus to be his special friend. The next day, Thomas also said sorry to Johnny. In fact, they became good friends. Thomas no longer did the things that he did at his old school.

Johnny was glad that his teacher had helped him to trust God at a time when things went wrong. He had seen how God could turn something bad into something good. Johnny not only had his pencils back, but he had a new friend as well. And best of all, Thomas had found a new friend, Jesus.



### **Rule no. 9: “Do not tell lies”**

#### **Discussion**

What does it mean to be honest?

We should be honest in what we say and what we do.

If we say we are going to do something, then we should do it. NOT to do it is being dishonest.

What is a lie?

Making people think something is true when you know it is not true.

Why do people tell lies?

- To make themselves look important
- To cover up something they have done
- To get someone else into trouble

Is there such a thing as a little lie?

We might think that some lies are little. But these lies keep growing. Count how many lies the girl told in the following little story.

#### **Skit for two people:**

Mum: Where is the change from the milk that I asked you to buy at the shop?

Ruby: There was a hole in my pocket and it dropped out.

Mum: Then I had better sew up the hole. Give me your dress.

Ruby: It's OK Mum, I've sewn it up already.

Mum: Let me have a look at your sewing. I didn't know you could sew that well?

Ruby: You can't see it now because I gave my dress away to a girl who didn't have many clothes.

Mum: Where does this girl live Meri?

Ruby: I don't know. She was walking past our house.

Mum: Oh, look what I found under your bed! There was no hole in your pocket!

### **Rule no. 10: “Do not envy the things that belong to another person”**

What does envy mean?

It means that you are unhappy because you don't have what others have, and you get angry about not having it.

God gives us the things we need, like clothes, food, shelter and a family. But sometimes people are not happy with the clothes they have, or the house they have because they see that someone else has something better. They even start to hate the people that have better things than they do.



God wants us to be happy with what he has provided for us. If we really do need more food or better things, then we can ask God to provide, but we must not look at others and say, "It's not fair. I don't have as much as they do!"

**Jesus' new rule: Love one another (Rule no. 11)**

Ten Commandments were given to Moses in the Old Testament for all of God's people. But when Jesus came to live on earth, He gave us a new commandment: to love one another. We can call this the 11<sup>th</sup> commandment.

Jesus said that if we truly follow this commandment, we will be following the other commandments. If someone truly loves another person, they will not lie to them, steal from them, or envy their things.

What is love?

Love is...

A special feeling that fills your heart

A special way of speaking and acting

Treating people and things with special care and kindness

Treating other people just the way you would like them to treat you, with respect

Matthew 7:12 Do for others what you want them to do for you.

**Why do we show love?**

Without love people feel alone

When they don't feel they matter to anyone people become unhappy

Everyone needs to be loved

Everyone likes to be treated kindly

To love someone is to show someone that they are special

God tells us to love others

**How do we show love?**

Think about how another person feels

Care for people

Share with people

Speak kind words to others

Be friendly

Smile

Try to help others if they have a need

**How would you show love in these situations?**

Your Dad is sick and you want to show him how much you love him

Your baby brother or sister is tired and cross and crying

Your teacher is worried because the classroom is untidy

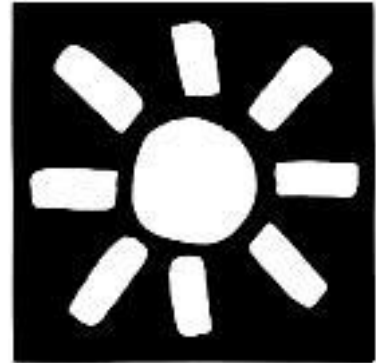
Someone in your class has no lunch today

A new student comes to your class

A small child is being teased by some older children

A student in your class is not good at sport but they are part of your sports team.

## **God is Creator (5 weeks)**



### **Outcomes**

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God created people on Day 6 of the creation
- People are more special than animals
- People can have a special relationship with God
- God has created people with special abilities that can be used to serve Him
- God is good and His original creation was very good. Although God's original creation was spoiled by sin, there are parts of the creation that remain beautiful and we can still enjoy God's good gifts to us.

### **Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:**

Five senses: sound and the ear

### **Link between "God is Creator" and the topics:**

We are wonderfully made, (Ps 139), with five senses. We can use our senses to appreciate God's beautiful world.

### **Values**

Respect for truth; faith, care for the environment, responsibility

# God is Creator

## Week 1

### We are God's handiwork.

**We are created in God's image.**

#### **Bible references**

Genesis 1 & 2 The days of Creation

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Eph 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

#### **Story: The Creation**

Read or tell the Biblical account of the seven days of creation. (Genesis 1 & 2)

#### **Discussion**

Although animals and people were created on the same day, God made people to be far more special than animals. God gave people the ability to love their Creator. Human beings were created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:26-28).

God created human beings to be more special than the animals. God had a special plan for us.

Read Genesis 1:26

What special work did God plan for us?

Read Ephesians 2:10

What else does God want us to do for Him?

**God created us with five senses.**

**These are: seeing, hearing, feeling, smelling and tasting**

#### **Prayer and activity**

Write and illustrate a prayer of thanks for God's beautiful world.

# God is Creator

## Week 2

### We are special to God.

**God's beautiful world was spoiled by disobedience**

#### **Bible References**

Luke 12:6-7 God knows how many hairs on our head. God cares for us even more than the birds and animals.

Genesis 2:4-25; Genesis 3 Adam and Eve disobey their Creator.

Romans 5:12 Sin came into the world through one man. (GNB)

#### **Story: Adam and Eve disobey their Creator**

Read or tell the story from Gen 2 & 3.

#### **Discussion**

When God made Adam and Eve, He wanted them to be His special friends. God made them in His own image. They were created with the ability to love God.

God said "Let us make man in our image." (Gen.1:26)

When Adam and Eve disobeyed, they lost the special relationship they had with God. However, many years later, Jesus came to earth in human form. Because of His death on the cross, people could accept forgiveness for their disobedience and once again walk and talk with their Creator.

#### **Discussion**

How do you think God felt when his special people, Adam and Eve, disobeyed Him?

#### **God made us special**

Did you know that everyone has a different finger print? Even identical twins have different finger prints. No one in the world has finger prints like you. God made us special. He made everyone different. He loves everyone with a very special love. He knows about us because He made us. He even knows how many hairs are on our head.

#### **God made us with the sense of touch**

We use our fingers to feel and touch. God made us that way.

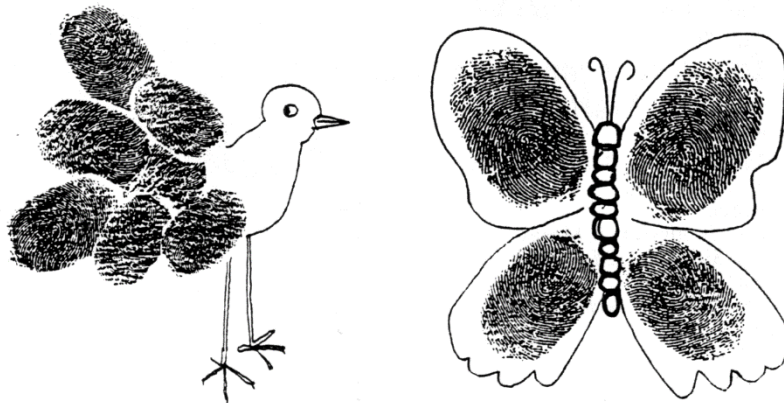
Why is the sense of touch important? (We can feel when things are hot and take our hand away. We can find our way in the dark.)

**Activity: The touch game**

Prepare a box with different objects in it. Ask for volunteers, one at a time, to be blindfolded and take an object from the box. They have to identify it through touching it.

**Activity: Fingerprint designs**

Make fingerprint designs in the form of animals. Fingerprints can be made by pressing a finger into powdered charcoal or pencil scrapings, or dipping into paint.



# God is Creator

## Week 3

### The gifts of sight

#### Bible references

Genesis 1 & 2 God's perfect creation

Psalm 19:1 How clearly the sky reveals God's glory! How plainly it shows what He has done.

Matthew 9: 27 – 30 Jesus heals two blind men

#### Introduction

Today we will think about the wonderful things in God's creation that we can see.

What are some of the beautiful things in God's creation that we can see?

What colours do we see?

What allows us to see colour? (light and our eyes)

In the Psalms, a book of the Bible written by David, we read about God's beautiful creation. Psalm 19:1 says "How clearly the sky reveals God's glory."

What do we see in the sky?

What do we see in the rainforest?

But what would it be like if we couldn't see?

#### The Feeling game

- Collect some small objects, e.g. rubber, pencil, ping pong ball; plastic animal.
- Place an object in a sock without allowing the student to see it. Ask the child to guess what the object is by feeling inside the sock. Replace the object with another and guess again.

#### The blindfold game

Work with another family member. One child must close their eyes, or put on a blindfold, while their partner leads them around. Then after a few minutes, partners change their roles.

#### Ask:

How did you feel when you had your eyes closed?

What are some of the things we could not do we could not see?

How can we use our eyes to serve Jesus?

e.g. Watch out for people in need; say thank you to God for the beautiful things He has made

#### Discussion

When Jesus came to live on earth, He often helped people who were blind. He knew how sad and lonely they were. Jesus was especially loving and kind to the people that no one else had time for. He was able to give them something much better than money. He was able to heal them, and show them how much God loved them.

Read how Jesus healed two blind men in Matthew 9: 27 – 31

As Jesus walked along two blind men started following Him. “Please help us,” they called. (They had heard that Jesus had healed many people.)

Jesus asked them, “Do you believe that I can heal you?”

“Yes sir!” they answered. Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, “Let it happen, just as you believe.” Straight away the men could see again.

Jesus cared for people, not just because they had something wrong in their body, but also because they were sad and lonely.

Why might a blind person be sad or lonely?

Maybe you know someone who is sad or lonely. They may not be blind, but they may be sad or lonely for other reasons. What would Jesus want us to do if we knew someone like this?

In God’s perfect creation there was no blindness. God intended that everyone in the world should be able to see the beautiful things that He created. But because sin entered the world, so did sickness. This means that today some people do not have the gifts of sight as God originally intended. He wants us to help these people.

Do you know someone who cannot see very well?

How can we help people who cannot see very well?

# God is Creator

## Week 4

### The gift of taste and smell

#### The gifts of taste and smell

#### Bible references

Genesis 1: 29 God gave Adam and Eve plants for their food

Genesis 1:31 All that God made was very good

Genesis 3:1-17 The Fall

Psalm 34:8 Taste and see that the Lord is good

#### Bible lesson: God created good things for us to enjoy

##### The gift of taste

In the Garden of Eden there were many plants. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat plants and seeds for their food.

Think of your favourite plant foods.

Let's make a list of all the plant foods we enjoy.

Why do we like these foods?

We like them because they taste delicious.

God created us with tastebuds so that we can enjoy food. Imagine how boring it would be if we ate only one type of food. Eating just one type of food would not be good for our health because we get different nutrients from different foods. A nutrient is something that helps us grow strong and healthy. You may have heard of vitamins. There are other nutrients too, like minerals, proteins, fats and starches.

Fruits not only taste good but they contain vitamins. Coconuts contain fats or oils that are very good for us. Bananas contain starches to give us energy.

When God had finished making the world He looked at His world and said, "It is very good."

This meant that all the plant foods He had made were good for us. There were no poisonous plants in the Garden of Eden. All plant foods were good. But we know about the one fruit they were not to eat, and we know how they disobeyed God and went ahead and ate it. Because of their disobedience the world became a different place, with thorns, thistles, poisonous plants, suffering, pain, killing and all sorts of evil.

But the good things God had created still remain. The delicious tasty foods are still here for us to enjoy. God still looks after us when we look to Him. Psalm 34:8 says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good."



We can use the word 'taste' in an imaginary way. Just imagine that there was a whole selection of different foods set before you. You want to try a little bit of each food. So you have a little taste of each. Sometimes we use the word 'taste' to mean 'to have a try of something'.

Many people have a taste, (or a try), of many things in life when they are looking for something to make them happy. They may have a 'taste' (or a try) of different religions or different sports and other activities. But God says that if you have a 'taste' (or a try) of the Christian life then you will not be disappointed because God is GOOD, all the time!

**God also created us with the ability to smell.**

**Activity**

Prepare some containers or paper bags of items that have distinctive smells, e.g. a lemon, a flower, a piece of pineapple or mango, cinnamon, curry etc. Let the student guess the smell.

Why is the gift of smell important?

(We can smell if there is danger, like poisonous gas or smoke; we can smell food that has gone off and not safe to eat.)

**Activity**

Ask the student to draw some of their favourite foods from God's creation. Point out the difference between foods that are straight from nature and processed foods. Remind them to draw only foods that are straight from nature.

# God is Creator

## Week 5

### We are wonderfully made.

#### **Bible References**

Psalm 119 We are wonderfully made.

Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Matthew 25:14-30 Gifts and talents.

#### **Story: The Carpenter's Tools**

The Carpenter loved His tools. Each one was precious to Him. He had a special place for each one, and always made sure that they were kept in excellent condition. His tools were valuable to him because He needed them to do His work.

One day, in the absence of the Carpenter, a quarrel broke out among the tools.

"I am the most important tool," said the saw, "for without me the Carpenter could not cut the wood to the shape He needs."

"No, I am the most important," said the plane, "for without me the Carpenter could not make the wood fine and smooth."

Then the chisel and hammer joined in. Each tool thought itself to be the most important.

The Carpenter returned. There was a hush over the workshop. He picked up the saw and set to work. Then he used the hammer, the chisel and plane in turn. After many hours, a beautiful wooden table was completed. The tools stared in wonder at the craftsmanship. Each tool realized that they had all been needed to get the job done. Each one was as important as the other. The Toolmaker had given each one a special ability.

#### **Discussion**

This story could not be true, because tools do not talk, but we can use our imagination to think about how the tools might be examples of people. Like the tools, people might think that the things they can do are better than the things other people can do.

God has made each individual special to Him. No two people in the world are exactly alike. No two people in the world have the same fingerprints. Even identical twins are different in small ways. God cares so much about us that He makes each person unique.

We all have special abilities. Some are good at drawing or singing. Others are good at running or swimming. No matter what talents we have, we should use them for God. Some people are naturally cheerful and friendly. Others have a natural desire to help people. For some, their special gift is bringing pleasure to others.

We can imagine that Jesus is like the carpenter. He wants to use the gifts and talents of every person he has made. All gifts and talents are equally important to Jesus. He wants us to work together with others and use our special abilities to serve Him. When we use our gifts and talents for God, we are like lights shining out to the world.

### **The gift of hearing and speech**

God made us with the ability to hear.

What are some of the things in God's creation that we can hear?

Is music part of God's creation?

Why is hearing important?

What would it be like if you couldn't hear?

How can we help those who cannot hear very well?

How can we use the gift of hearing to serve God? (Listen to people when they speak)

How can we use our gift of speaking? (Speak kind words; tell others about Jesus)

### **God created us with ears to hear**

Jesus helped people who couldn't hear. He touched them and healed them so they too had the gift of hearing.

In God's perfect creation there was no deafness. God intended that everyone in the world should be able to hear the beautiful sounds that He created. But because sin entered the world, so did sickness. This means that today some people do not have the gifts of hearing as God originally intended. He wants us to help these people.

There is a special language for deaf people called 'sign language'. People use their hands to make signs for different words. There is also another way of communicating called 'lip-reading'.

If a person couldn't hear very well, then we would want to speak to them very clearly and make sure that they are watching our lips. We would make sure that they are close enough to us to be heard.

### **Activity:**

Work with another family member. One person can try to use hand signs to explain a message and the other person can try to guess the message, e.g. "Is there a bus coming soon? I want to catch it."

## God is Wise (4 weeks)



### Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The definition of wisdom
- That Jesus grew in wisdom as a young boy
- That as they grow and change, they can develop an understanding of God and His ways
- That the greatest source of wisdom is God and the Bible
- That there are physical, emotional and social changes from birth to old age
- That we can rely on God's wisdom for dealing with difficult challenges in life
- That we can become wise through listening to wise people

### Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Hygiene and safety; safety in the home

### Link between "God is Protector" and the topics:

Students will be encouraged to think about the way in which they can become wise as they grow up. (Jesus grew in wisdom because he listened to wise people.) Wisdom in caring for our bodies: Healthy food, safety and personal hygiene.

### Values:

Responsibility, fairness and respect for truth and justice; lifelong learning; discernment, humility

# God is Wise

## Week 1

### Growing in wisdom

#### **Bible references:**

Luke 2:41 – 52 The boy Jesus visits the temple in Jerusalem  
Luke 2:40 and Luke 2:52 Jesus grew in stature and in wisdom.

#### **Introduction**

For the next four weeks we are going to be talking about 'growing up'.

What do you like best about being the age you are?  
What can you do now that you couldn't do when you were younger?  
What will you be able to do when you are older?

Let's see what the Bible says about Jesus as a little boy.

#### **Bible lesson: The boy Jesus**

We know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph.  
How long ago was He born?

We also remember how the angels told the shepherds that this baby Jesus was no ordinary baby but He would grow up to be the Saviour of the world. Eight days after He was born his parents took him to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to God. There was a man called Simeon who loved and served God in the temple. He took baby Jesus in his arms and God gave him a special message, that this baby would be a light to the world.

Mary kept all these things in her heart and watched the boy Jesus grow. The bible says that as Jesus grew in his body, He also grew in wisdom.

What is wisdom?  
Wisdom is 'knowing the right thing to do, and doing it'.

Although Jesus was God's son, as a boy He lived like a normal boy, helping his parents and playing with his brothers and sisters. Because He was growing in wisdom he knew and did what was right.

When Jesus was six years old He went to school. In Israel, the country where Jesus lived, only boys went to school in those days. The girls were taught at home by their mothers. The school was in the temple, which was like a church. They learned to read from the Old Testament part of the Bible. The boys sat on the floor. There were no chairs, tables, pencils or blackboards. The Bible was not in the form of a book, but it was written in handwriting on rolled up paper called a scroll.

The teacher was called a Rabbi. He would open the scroll and read a few words, then the boys would repeat after him.

When Jesus was a little boy, Mary and Joseph left Bethlehem where Jesus was born, and moved to the town of Nazareth. When Jesus was 12 years old Mary and Joseph travelled with their family to the temple in Jerusalem. It was a long journey. They had to walk, and their animals carried their food and blankets.

They arrived in Jerusalem and found that it was very crowded. Jesus could easily get lost in the crowd. But he didn't get lost. He went to the temple to hear the teachers teach from Scripture. He was so interested in what the teachers were saying that he didn't realize how much time had passed.

Now Mary and Joseph were ready to go home, but they couldn't find Jesus. They were worried. Was Jesus lost?

For three days they looked for Jesus. At last they found Him. He was in the temple. He was listening to the wise teachers and asking them questions.

"We have been so worried about you," said Mary.

"Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?" said Jesus. Jesus knew that God was His Heavenly Father.

Although Jesus would love to have stayed longer, He obeyed Mary and Joseph and went home with them. God blessed Jesus and He grew wise and strong.



**Discussion**

- How do we know what is the right thing to do?
- If we are wise we will obey God by doing what He tells us in the Bible.
- What did Bibles look like in the days of Jesus? (Roll up a piece of paper to make a scroll.)
- What did the church building look like then? (The temple)
- Jesus knew that to obey His Heavenly Father, He needed to learn about the Bible. What are some of the things that the Bible tells us?

**Activities**

- a) List the requirements for physical growth – healthy food, water, air, sleep, exercise.
- b) List requirements for growing in wisdom.

Make a scroll and write the Bible verse: Jesus grew in body and wisdom, and was loved by God and man.” Luke 2:52

# God is Wise

## Week 2

### Follow God's instructions

#### **Bible references:**

Matt 7:24-27 House on the rock

1 Peter 2:2 As new-born babies need milk, we need God's word as our spiritual food.

Psalm 119:105 God's word is a lamp to our feet.

#### Introduction

We have been learning about Jesus as a boy. The Bible tells us that as Jesus grew strong and healthy in his body, he also grew in wisdom. He grew to understand more and more about God. He knew what God wanted Him to do and He obeyed God.

#### **Bible lesson: Build your life on the rock**

How do we know what God wants us to do?

Many people think that being wise is being clever. But if you are clever and do not know what God wants you to do, you are not wise. To be wise you must listen to God and follow His instructions.

Where do we find God's instructions?

We find them in the Bible. The Bible, God's word, is like God's instruction book for life. People who live their life by following Jesus are the wisest people.

The Bible tells us that if we want to grow in knowing God, then we must read the Bible. We need it just like new born babies need milk to grow.

The Bible will show us what to do in life. Psalm 119:105 says, "God's word is a lamp to our feet."

Here is a story that Jesus told. It's about being wise:

#### **The wise and foolish builders**

Jesus said, "Once there were two men who built houses for themselves. The first man was wise. He chose a good place on solid rock. Although it was harder to build on rock, the man knew it was worth the extra work. Before long, there was a terrific storm. The wind blew furiously and the rain teemed down. Soon there was a great flood, but the house did not fall for it was built on rock.

The other man was foolish for he chose an easy place on low, sandy ground. His house did not have a solid foundation. When the storm and floods came, it fell down with a loud crash.



Jesus then said this to the people who were listening to the story: "Everyone who comes and listens to me, and obeys me, is like a wise man who built on a strong foundation."

### **Discussion**

We can know a lot about Jesus, but we are not wise unless we do what He says to do. Jesus wants to live in our hearts and lives. Then our lives will be built like the house on the rock.

Because God is wiser than anyone, He always knows what to do. If you have invited Jesus to live in your life, then He will help you when you don't know what to do. Maybe you have a really big problem that you don't know how to solve. Jesus can help you. Think of times when Jesus can help you. What must you do if you want Him to help you?

### **Art/Craft**

- Make a poster: "Be wise! Build your life on Jesus".
- Draw the two houses described in Matthew 7:24-27.



# God is Wise

## Week 3

### God always knows what to do.

**When we don't know the answer to a problem, ask God to give us His wisdom.**

#### **Bible references**

Daniel 2 Daniel explains the king's dream.

Daniel 5 Daniel explains the writing on the wall..." (Mene Mene Tekel Parsin means Numbered, numbered, weighed, divided – your days as king are numbered. Your actions have been weighed up. Your kingdom will be divided and given to others.)

James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.

#### **Introduction**

Define the meanings of 'wise' and 'wisdom'.

*Wisdom is 'knowing the right thing to do, and doing it'.*

Think of things that are very difficult for a young child to understand, but easy for an older child.

As we grow older, we can understand many more things. However, no one has ever been, or will ever be, as wise as God. If we need wisdom, we can ask God to give it to us. This is what the Bible tells us to do in James 1:5.

What would you do in these situations?

1. You are lost in a big department store. You don't know what to do.
2. You borrowed a toy that belongs to your best friend. You have broken it and don't know what to do.
3. You have just moved to a new place. The children in your new school are not very friendly. You don't know how to make friends.

#### **Story: Daniel explains the king's dream**

This is a true story about a man who needed God's wisdom in two different situations. He didn't know the answer himself so he asked God for wisdom. The man's name was Daniel and his story is found in the Bible.

In the land of Babylon lived a King called Nebuchadnezzar. He was not a good king. He did not worship the true God. He had captured some of God's people to work for him in the palace. One young man was Daniel.

Daniel was a good man who loved God. Sometimes the king would worship statues, and he asked others in his kingdom to do the same. But Daniel would never worship a false god. God was pleased with Daniel and gave him wisdom. Daniel became wiser than all the other men in the kingdom.

One day the king had a dream. He was very troubled because he didn't know the meaning of the dream. He asked the wise men, but they didn't know. Then he asked Daniel.

"If you can tell me what the dream means," said the king, "I will reward you."

"I can't tell you what the dream means," said Daniel, "but God can. I will ask Him."

Daniel asked God to tell him the meaning of the dream. God told Daniel that the dream was about Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom which would one day be great. Daniel told this to the king, and the king was very pleased. He gave Daniel many gifts and gave him an important position in the kingdom. The king made it known that Daniel was the wisest man in the kingdom.

Some years later, Nebuchadnezzar died and his son Belshazzar became king. Like his father, the new king did not worship the true God. King Belshazzar did something that greatly displeased God. He took the gold and silver cups that had been stolen from God's temple and used them at a special feast. During the feast the people worshipped statues of silver, wood and stone.

God was so angry with King Belshazzar that He sent Him a special message. This is what happened. While the people were eating and drinking, a hand appeared. It wrote a message on the wall. God made the hand appear and God wrote the message. The message was in a language that no one could understand. All the people at the feast were afraid. The king was especially afraid. He sent for Daniel.

"What does this message mean?" King Belshazzar Daniel. Daniel asked God to give him wisdom once again.

"You have forgotten the true God, O king," said Daniel. "You have been drinking from cups stolen from the temple, and you have been worshipping statues. The Lord is angry with you. Your kingdom will be given over to another king."

Everything happened just as Daniel said. That night King Belshazzar died and a new king took his place.

### **Discussion**

Were the two kings very wise?

How was Daniel able to explain the king's dream and the writing on the wall?

Why was Daniel such a wise person?

What must we do if we want God's wisdom?

### Activity 1

Here are some wise sayings from the Bible, written by a wise king called Solomon.

1. If you want people to like you, forgive them when they do wrong things to you. (Proverbs 17:9)

*Questions: What does 'forgive' mean? When should we forgive people?*

2. Good people think before they answer. (Proverbs 15:28)

*Question: What might happen if you don't think before you speak?*

3. Always obey the Lord and you will be happy. (Proverbs 28:14)

*Question: What is the best way to be happy?*

### Activity 2

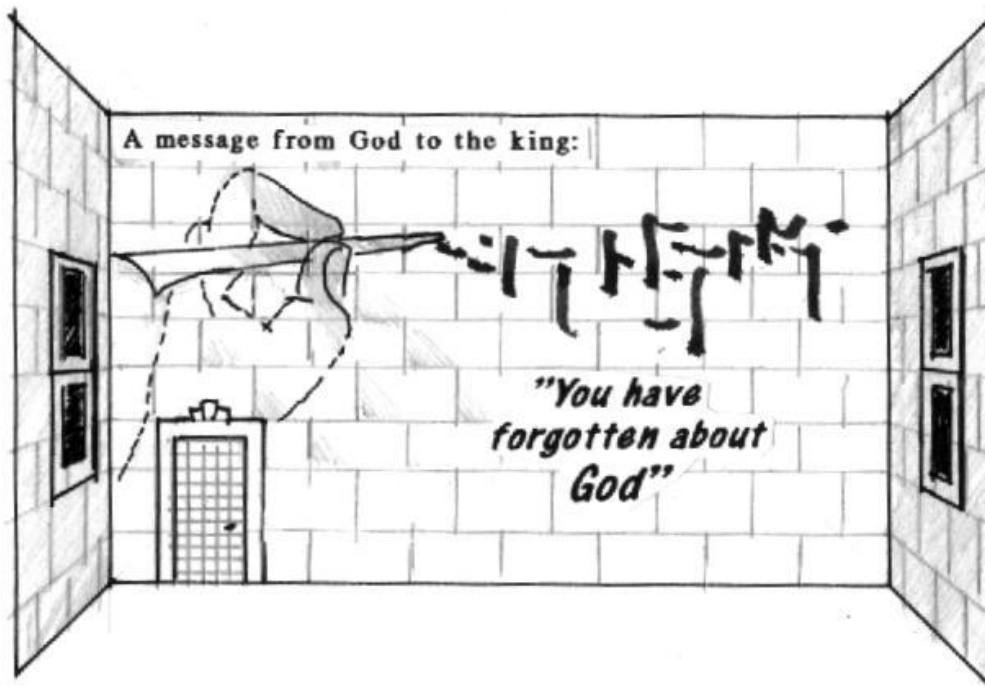
Fill in the gaps with a, e, i, o, u, to make this message from James 1:5.

\_sk G\_d f\_r w\_sd\_m.

### Art/Craft

#### Daniel explains the king's dream

Cut up a large cardboard box so that 3 sides remain. Create a wall using crayons or paint.



# God is Wise

## Week 4

### Learn from people who are wise

**If we want to be wise we must take time to listen and learn from others.**

#### **Bible references**

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. (NLT)

James 1:5 If you lack wisdom, ask God for it.

The Gospels: The disciples learned from Jesus

Luke 10:38-42 Mary chose to listen and learn from Jesus

#### **Discussion**

Who do we ask for wise advice? (parents, grandparents, teachers, church and Sunday School friends)

Many parents and grandparents have stories to tell of the past. We can learn from older people because they have experience in life and can pass on their wisdom.

Ask the children for anything they have learned from their parents or grandparents?

#### **Make a list of wise and unwise choices**

1. You have \$20 to spend on food for the family meal
2. You have \$5 given to you for your birthday. What will you do with it?
3. You have been asked to do jobs for Mum on Saturday but your friends want you to play with them

#### **Bible lesson**

When Jesus was a boy, he listened from His parents and learned from them. Jesus worked in the carpenter's shop with his father Joseph, making things from wood. Joseph would have taught Jesus how to use the tools and how to make things. Joseph would have also given Jesus wise advice on many things.

If we want to be wise, then we have to be good listeners, and show by our actions that we have listened to good advice.

The best advice for life comes from the Bible. These are God's words.

Here are some good words of advice:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

There were twelve friends of Jesus who were good listeners. They were the disciples. They travelled around with Jesus listening to Him teach about God, and watching Him perform miracles. The disciples would one day carry on the work of Jesus when He went back to heaven.

God wants us to do His work too. He wants us to learn from the Bible and tell others about Jesus.

There was a lady in the Bible who loved to learn about God. She was a good listener. Her name was Mary. She was not the mother of Jesus, but another lady named Mary. She had a sister called Martha. One day Jesus came to their house. Martha was very busy preparing the food and making sure that everything was just right. But Mary wanted to learn from Jesus. She sat down and listened to Jesus, and probably asked lots of questions, because she wanted to learn about God. Martha was not happy that Mary was not helping to prepare the food, but Jesus said that it was OK, because Mary had chosen to listen and learn. God wants us to listen and learn too, so that we can be wise followers, doing God's work.

### **Revision questions**

What does wisdom mean?

Who is the wisest person in the universe?

Which people can we listen to for wise advice?

How can we become wise?

# God is a Servant

## (4 weeks)



### Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The meaning of a 'servant', Jesus being the greatest servant that ever lived.
- That God the creator serves us through all that he provides
- That we can serve God by caring for others
- That God wants us to serve without complaining
- That God wants us to serve even when we are afraid, or when it is hard
- That we can learn to be good servants of God by learning from others

### Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Community servants: The Medical Profession; medical missionaries

### Link between "God is a Servant" and the topics:

The children can be reminded that doctors, nurses and the medical workers help us when we are sick or injured. They are examples of community servants.

### Values:

Compassion; flexibility; humility; willingness; thoughtfulness; sacrifice

# God is a Servant

## Week 1

### Jesus was the greatest servant that ever lived

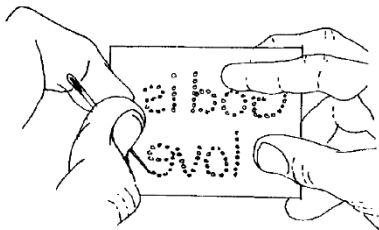
#### Bible references

Luke 4:16-19, John 9: 1-34 Jesus heals a blind man (Revision from Term 1)

Galatians 5:13 Serve one another in love

Preparation

Take a piece of thick cardboard, such as a paper plate, and use a needle to prick a message. During the lesson you can pass this around for children to feel.



#### Introduction

Ask the student if they know what a servant is.

A servant is a helper.

Ask them to think about ways in which we can help others. How do they help at home and school?

Jesus wants us all to be servants.

Jesus was the greatest servant that ever lived.

The Bible tells us about the kind of servant Jesus was.

Jesus came to...

- heal the sick
- heal blind eyes and deaf ears
- heal sad hearts
- heal people from sin

#### Bible lesson: Jesus heals a blind man

What would it be like to be blind? You would have to rely on feeling as you did in the games. What are some of the things you could not enjoy?

In the time when Jesus lived, blind people were not cared for very well. There was no special help available for blind people. Today people who are blind may have the opportunity of reading special 'feeling' books. Braille is an alphabet made from raised dots which blind people can feel with their fingers. (Pass around the Braille message you have prepared beforehand.)



In Jesus' day there were no places where blind people could go to receive help. They just had to sit on the street and hold out a bowl, begging people who passed by for money. Because they were blind, they could not work to earn money. They had to beg for money to buy food.

Jesus was walking along the road with His disciples. They saw a man sitting by the road.

"Look Jesus," said one of His men, "that man is blind. He can't see. Will you help him?"

"Yes," said Jesus, "God sent me to heal people. He sent me to be the light of the world."

Jesus bent down next to the man. He spat on the ground to make it wet. He rubbed the ground to make it into clay.

"Now, sit very still," Jesus said. "I will put the clay on your eyes."

Jesus rubbed the clay on the man's eyes. "Now," he said, "Go to the pool of Siloam and wash the mud off your eyes."

The man went to the pool. He washed his eyes. As he opened his eyes he looked around.

"I can see!" he cried. "I'm not blind anymore!"

He was so happy. He told crowds of people that a man had healed him. He did not know His name. Jesus came to find the man who was healed. He bowed down before Jesus. "Now I know you are the special Man sent from God," he said.

The man told many people about Jesus.

Jesus asked the blind man to do something very unusual. Because the blind man did just as Jesus said, we know that he believed and trusted in Jesus.

### **Questions:**

What must people do if they want to be healed by Jesus?

What are some of the different kinds of healing that people may need?

How does Jesus heal?

Jesus healed people because he loved and cared for people. How can we show that we love and care for people?

### **Activity**

Make a prayer chart to remind us to pray for people who are sick or sad. Pray for these people every day. (The student can decorate the chart.)

# God is a Servant

## Week 2

### Others first

Following the example of Jesus

#### Bible references

Matthew 8:14-17 Jesus heals many people including Peter's mother-in-law.

Luke 6:17-19 They had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases. ...power was going out from Him and healing them all. (GNB)

Philippians 2:14 Do everything without complaining

#### Introduction

Revise the meaning of a servant.

Today we are going to think about times when it is hard to be a servant. What would you do in these situations?

Just imagine that...

- Your Mum has asked you to help her look after your little brother or sister, but your friend has also asked you to come and play
- A big storm has just damaged your house. There is water all through the house.
- You feel really tired and want to go to sleep, but the dishes haven't been done and Mum is busy looking after the baby
- Mum asks you to clean the toilet and you have never been asked to do that before

#### Bible Story: Jesus helps His friends

Jesus always helped people, even when He was tired. Jesus often got tired because so many people needed his help. The Bible tells us that one day Jesus was feeling tired from His busy day. Crowds had followed Him as usual, wanting to hear more about God's kingdom, and bringing the sick to be healed.

Jesus went to the home of His friend, Peter, hoping that He could rest a bit and perhaps get a bite to eat. As Jesus entered the house, He could see that something was wrong. Where was Peter?

Peter and his wife were at the bed of Peter's mother-in-law.

"We're so glad you're here," said Peter's wife. "Won't you pray for my mother? She's very sick with a fever."

When you have a fever you feel very hot. Have you ever had your temperature taken? A person with a fever has a very high temperature.

Although Jesus was feeling very tired, He immediately went to the bedside of Peter's mother-in-law. He touched her hand, and at once she was healed. Peter felt her forehead. Her temperature was normal! The fever had left her. Not only that, she felt

well enough to get out of bed and prepare a meal for Jesus. I'm sure He was glad of that!

After the evening meal there was more work for Jesus to do. People started coming to the house. Some were sick. Some people were sad because they were troubled by evil spirits. But Jesus healed them all.

Some of the people who watched Jesus heal remembered something that was written in the book of Isaiah. It said that a Saviour would come to take away people's sicknesses and diseases. Jesus was the Saviour that the world had been waiting for.

### **Discussion**

This story shows us that Jesus was always willing to help others even when he was tired, or had things to do for himself.

Sometimes we might not feel like helping, but Jesus would want us to help others when we are asked to without complaining. There is a verse in the Bible that says, "Do everything without complaining."

Think of people who we could help?

(People who are sick, sad, have too much work)

### **Art/Craft and Puppet Play**

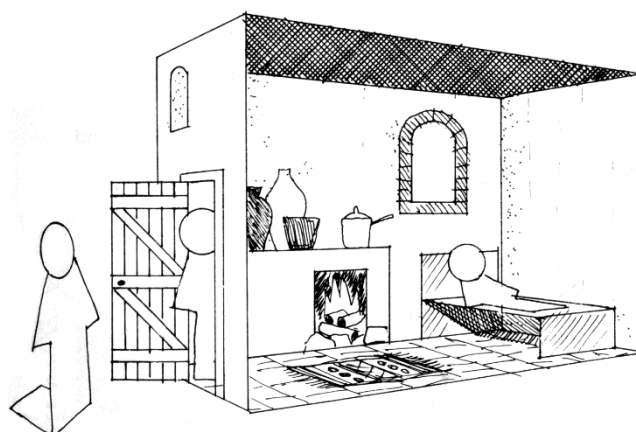
Make a play box to re-tell the story.

a) Take a cardboard box such as a shoe box or tissue box. Make one side open and turn this to the front. Create the background scenery on the back panel.

b) Cut out figures from card and make them stand up as shown. (Fold the bottom section of the card and use it as a base. Figures may also be attached to wooden building blocks for more support.)

c) Use the figures to re-tell the story:

1. Jesus comes to the house.
2. Peter meets Jesus at the door.
3. Peter takes Jesus to his mother-in-law who is sick in bed.
4. Jesus touches her and she is healed.
5. Peter's mother-in-law goes to the kitchen and prepares food for Jesus.



# God is a Servant

## Week 3

### Serving God even when we are afraid

#### Bible references

Judges 6 Gideon, a servant of God

Psalm 91 God gives us angels to protect us when we are doing God's work

Psalm 56:3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

#### Bible lesson: Gideon was afraid, but did what God wanted him to do

The people of Israel forgot about God and the way He had helped them in times of trouble. They forgot about when God opened up the Red Sea and saved them from their enemies when Moses was leader.

If we move forward in history some time later, the Israelites are again worried by their enemies. The enemies were the Midianites and they were surrounding the Israelites. The Midianites robbed the land. They would wait until the harvest was ready then move in to the Israelites land and carry off the grain and the ripe grapes and the olives. They stole the donkeys and the sheep and the cattle too.

The Israelites were afraid so they hid in caves in the hills until the raids were over. When they crept out the fields were stripped bare and there was no food to eat during the winter months ahead. This happened each year at harvest time.

After seven years the Israelites cried out to God for help. There was a young man called Gideon who God chose to help his people. One day he was crushing a little bit of wheat that he had managed to hide. He looked up and saw a stranger.

"God is with you, brave and mighty man," said the visitor. "I am sending you to rescue Israel from the Midianites."

Gideon was surprised. He was not a hero. He was not very brave. "How can I rescue Israel?" he asked the stranger.

"With my help," the stranger answered. "I will be with you and you will defeat the Midianites very easily."

Gideon wanted to make sure that this stranger was really from God. So he said to the stranger, "Please wait while I get you some food. The stranger promised to wait until Gideon got back.

Gideon went home and came back with some meat, some bread and some soup. The stranger said, "Put the meat and the bread on this rock, then pour the soup over them."

Gideon did as he was told. The stranger put out his stick and touched the food. At once a flame leaped up from the rock and burned up the food. Now Gideon knew that this was God's special messenger bringing him God's special words. Then the visitor disappeared.

Before Gideon was willing to become Israel's leader, he wanted to become even more certain that God had called him.

"If you have chosen me to rescue Israel, please give me a sign," he prayed to God. "Tonight I will put out a fleece of wool in the place where we crush the wheat. If the wool is wet with dew in the morning, but the ground is dry, then I will know that you have called me."

The next morning, Gideon's fleece was so wet that he wrung out a whole bowl full of dew from it. Yet the ground on which the fleece lay was dry. But Gideon started to doubt. Was this really God?

"Please don't be angry, God," he prayed. "Show me once more that you will use me to lead Israel. This time, please let the ground around my fleece be wet and the wool be dry."

God was not angry. He understood Gideon's worries and fears. Next morning, sure enough, the fleece was fluffy and dry but the ground around it was wet with dew. Now Gideon was certain that God was calling him to set Israel free from the Midianites.

Gideon did become the leader of the Israelites and with God's help they were able to defeat the enemies that were stealing their food. This is how they did it.

Gideon went out to find people to form an army. In a short time he had thirty-two thousand men. But God said, "You have too many soldiers Gideon. I want Israel to know that I am the One who is going to save them. Tell the soldiers that all those who are afraid must go back home."

Gideon did as God told him. Twenty-two thousand men went back home. There were just ten thousand men left. Now Gideon was afraid that his army was too small. But God said, "There are still too many soldiers, Gideon. Bring your soldiers down to the water. Watch them as they drink. All those who lap up the water with their tongues, like a dog does, put on one side. Those who get down on their knees to drink, put on the other side."

So Gideon took his soldiers to the water. He watched them drink. Three hundred of them lapped the water with their tongues. The rest he was to send home. So Gideon had only three hundred soldiers to fight all those Midianites!

Gideon led his soldiers to the camp of the Midianites. It was night when they reached a hill above the camp. There were so many enemy tents – too many to count. "Go down and fight them," God said to Gideon.

Gideon was afraid but God said, "Creep down to the enemy camp and I will show you something." So Gideon went with his servant. They heard two guards talking. "I had a dream," said one guard. I saw a loaf of bread tumbling down the hill into our camp and it turned our tents upside down."

"That must be Gideon and the Israelites," said the other guard. Their God is going to help them defeat us."

Now Gideon knew that God was going to help them.

Gideon told his men to form three groups. He gave each man an empty jug with a flaming torch inside, and a trumpet.

The men surrounded the camp with their torches and trumpets. Gideon broke his jug and held up his light and blew his trumpet. All his soldiers did the same. Gideon shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"

The Midianites awoke in terror. The great noise fooled them. They thought that the army was huge. They stumbled out of their tents and ran away as fast as they could. The Israelites chased the Midianites out of their land. The Israelites made Gideon their ruler. He judged Israel for forty years.

### **Discussion**

To be God's servants we sometimes have to have courage. It may be a bit scary to do what God wants us to do, but with His help we can do it.

When might we be afraid to do what God wants?

e.g. speaking to others about God; sharing in class what God has done

Many of our Fijian missionaries have worked for God even when they were afraid. Some came from countries like England and Scotland, where things were very different. They came to Fiji where people worshiped idols. The missionaries knew that they might even be killed, but that did not stop them from doing God's work. It doesn't mean that they weren't afraid. They probably were very afraid at times, but they always trusted God and looked to Him for help. If it was not for the early missionaries to Fiji we would not know about God and the Bible.

Many people today have big battles. Not battles against armies, but battles against things like fear, sickness and sadness. Maybe there are problems which seem impossible to solve. If we do have a problem, and we belong to God's family, then God will fight the battle for us. God can win the battle for us even when things seem impossible. God can do anything if we have faith in Him. He is more powerful than anyone.

# God is a Servant

## Week 4

### Learning to be God's servant

#### Bible references

Joshua 1 Joshua serves God by carrying on the work of Moses

Joshua 1:5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Joshua 1:8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Numbers 11:28 Joshua had been a helper of Moses since he was a young boy.

Numbers 27:18 Moses laid hands on Joshua and he received the spirit of wisdom.

#### Bible lesson: Joshua

Today we are going to go back in time to when Moses was leading the Israelites to the Promised Land. They had been slaves in Egypt, but God had chosen Moses to lead them out. God did many miracles for them. For forty years they travelled in the desert on their way to the Promised Land. There was very little food in the desert so God sent food from heaven called 'mana'. God said that in the new land there would be plenty to eat. It would be a land where there was milk and honey. It was going to be so much better than the desert country that they were travelling in.

Just before they reached the Promised Land, Moses died. God chose a new leader for the Israelites. His name was Joshua. Joshua had been a helper of Moses since he was a young boy. One day God came to Joshua and said, "Joshua, Moses has died. I want you to take the Israelites across the Jordan River into the Promised Land. Just as I was with Moses I will be with you. Be strong and full of courage. Do not be afraid, for I will go with you wherever you go."

God also said, "Study my law, day and night and teach my people to obey it too. Then all will go well with you."

Joshua told all the people that they would soon be in their new land. But first they must cross the river Jordan River. The people were afraid because the river was deep, fast-flowing and in full flood. First Joshua sent two men across to find out more about the city on the other side. These men were called 'spies'. The city had a wall around it to keep out enemies and strangers. The two men were strong swimmers. They crossed the river and climbed the wall. There was a house built into the wall where a lady called Rahab lived. She had heard how powerful the God of Israel was, and was afraid of the Israelites. She thought that she had better protect the two men or something

bad might happen to her. Someone had seen the two men climb the wall and reported it to the soldiers of the city. The soldiers were looking for the two men but didn't find them. Rahab let them hide in her house until they were safe, then let them down the wall in a basket. Then the two men hid in the hills for three days until they were sure they were safe then hurried back to the Israelites. The two men told Joshua about the city, and how the people in the city were afraid of the Israelites.

Now it was time for God's people to cross the river. God told Joshua what to do. Joshua chose twelve men to pick up stones and carry them to the place where they were to cross. The place was called Gilgal. Joshua told the men to pile up the stones to make a monument so that in times to come they would remember the place where they crossed the river, and the miracle that God was going to do for them.

Joshua followed the Lord's special instructions. He told the priests, (the Scripture teachers), to carry the Ark of the Covenant and begin walking into the Jordan. (The Ark of the Covenant was the special box that contained the Scriptures.) Even though the river was at flood stage, it immediately stopped flowing and dried up. While the priests stood in the middle of the dry riverbed, God told the priest to collect another twelve stones and pile them in the middle of the river bed. This would be a memorial to help the Israelites remember in future times how the Lord had dried up the river. Then Joshua instructed all the people to cross the river. They all crossed on dry ground. When everyone had finished crossing over, the priests followed to the other side.

As soon as the priests stepped onto the bank on the other side the water in the Jordan River began flowing again. The people looked back to see the top of their monument of stones showing above the water.

They were in their new land where there was plenty of food. God didn't need to send manna any more as he did when they were walking in the desert.

### **Discussion**

How did Joshua learn to be a good servant of God? (He helped Moses and learned from him from when he was a young boy.)

What did God say to Joshua when he became leader of God's people? (Joshua 1:5; Joshua 1:8; Joshua 1:9)

What made Joshua a good servant of God?

- Brave
- Listened to God
- Obeyed God
- Studied the Scriptures and taught them to the people
- Cared for the people
- Showed wisdom



## God is Protector (3 weeks)



### Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That we can ask God for help whenever we feel afraid or unsafe
- We should ask God to protect us from danger
- That many servants of God in the Bible and in history have experienced God's protection in dangerous circumstances
- That when we keep God's word in our hearts and listen to what the Bible says, then our minds are protected against wrong thoughts
- That protection comes from obedience to God

### Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Weather and climate; shelter from storms and weather conditions

### Link between "God is Protector" and the topics:

There are many references in the Psalms to God being our shelter, e.g. Psalm 18:2 and Psalm 91. God shelters us from the storms of life when we put our trust in Him.

### Values:

Responsibility; security; peace; faith; trust in God

# God is Protector

## Week 1

### God gives us armour

#### Bible references

Ephesians 6:10-18 The armour of God

#### Introduction

Explain that in the land where Jesus lived, the people were under the rule of Roman soldiers. Look at a picture of Roman soldier or a knight wearing armour. How many separate pieces of armour are there? (If you don't have a picture you can prepare the soldier on the activity sheet on the next page as a demonstration model.)

#### Bible research

God has told us that we should put on armour too because Christians fight against an enemy. The enemy's name is Satan. He does not attack us with real swords or arrows, but he does try to give us bad thoughts. He tries to make us do the wrong thing. That is how he fights Christians.

So that we will be strong when Satan comes to us with bad thoughts, God tell us to wear armour. It is not made of metal like knights' armour. You cannot see this special armour. God gives it to us when we ask for it. Here is the armour:

Look up Ephesians 6:10-18 in your Bible. Make a list of the armour and think about how you can have each piece of armour for yourself.

1. The belt of truth
2. The breastplate of righteousness (also called the protection of right living)
3. Shoes for announcing the Good News of peace
4. The shield of faith
5. The Helmet of Salvation
6. The sword of the Spirit

Why do we need to PUT ON God's armour? (Verse 11)

How do we do it?

Why do God's people need to keep on the alert? (verse 18)

What else should we do in addition to putting on the armour? (verse 18)

#### Art/Craft

Use the following activity sheet to make a figure wearing the armour of God.  
Or draw a soldier wearing the armour.



# God is Protector

## Week 2

### Protection from wrong thoughts

The helmet of salvation is an important piece of armour for protecting us against wrong thoughts; we need to use our armour every day.

#### **Bible references**

Ephesians 6:10-18 The armour of God.

Philippians 4:8 Fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely and honourable. (GNB)

#### **Introduction**

Last week we learned about the pieces in the armour of God, and how they protect us as we walk with God in the Christian life. Let's think again about the Helmet of Salvation.

What part of the body does a helmet protect?

Why would a Christian need protection for their head?

We use our head for thinking.

Even Christians can have bad thoughts coming into their heads...thoughts like wanting to tell a lie, to say something unkind about another person, to be lazy and not to do the thing we should do...

What should we do when one of these thoughts comes into our head?

#### **Story: Pilgrim's Armour**

This is an imaginary story that teaches us about some ideas that we find in the Bible.

Long ago in the City of Destruction lived a man called Pilgrim. Pilgrim was not happy in the city of Destruction. People were always fighting.

One day a man called Evangelist came along. He told the people in the city that they could live much happier lives if only they would follow the path to the Celestial City.

"How can I ever be happy when I have this big burden on my back?" asked Pilgrim. "How do I get rid of it?" (A burden is something heavy. It's like a big weight on your back. It's always there. You just can't get rid of it. It makes you feel very unhappy.)

"See that light in the distance?" said Evangelist. Follow the path and you will come to a gate. The gate is called the Gate of Decision. When you arrive at the gate you will see an old wooden cross. You must kneel at the cross and ask Jesus to forgive you for all the wrong things you did in the City of Destruction.

Pilgrim followed the path, and there, as Evangelist had said, was the wooden cross. When Pilgrim asked for forgiveness, immediately his burden fell from his back and rolled down the hill.

Pilgrim went through the gate and followed the path to the Palace Beautiful. He knocked on the door, and the door was opened by a princess.

"I am the princess of the King," she said. "Come in and I will give you the armour that you need for your journey to the Celestial City. You will need a helmet, a breastplate, a sword, a shield, a belt and some special shoes. All these will help to protect you as you fight against the wicked prince and his followers."

Pilgrim continued his journey, and it wasn't long before he met one of the followers of the wicked prince. The first one he met was Apollyan.

"Draw your sword, Pilgrim. Get ready to fight. Surely you don't think you can travel on this path! That bright shiny armour will not protect you against ME!"

Pilgrim won the fight, but the battle left him feeling tired. He was almost ready to give up when along came someone else who was travelling to the Celestial City. His name was Hopeful.

"Do not give up," said Hopeful. "I will walk with you to the Celestial City." So the two friends travelled together.

The path was getting a bit stony so the two decided to jump the fence and walk in the nice green meadow on the other side. They didn't know that the meadow belonged to Giant Despair.

"What are you doing in my meadow!" thundered Giant Despair. "I put pilgrims like you in my dungeon!"

The giant grabbed the pilgrims and threw them in the dungeon. There they lay for days. It seemed that they would be there forever. Then one day, Pilgrim remembered something. The princess had given him a key. On the key was some tiny writing which said, 'Trust in God'. Pilgrim remembered that God was stronger than any enemy. He tried the key, and to his surprise, it fitted the lock. The door creaked as the two pilgrims crept out of the dungeon.

"Hurry!" said Hopeful, "before Giant Despair hears us!"

The two pilgrims were safely on the path again now, and soon they saw the Celestial City in the distance. As they got closer they could hear singing. They came to a river and they saw an angel waiting on the other side.

"Before you can enter the Celestial City," said the angel, "you must cross the river. Do not worry about the waves. Just keep your eyes on the Celestial City."

Pilgrim and Hopeful crossed the river safely. Then they were called, one by one, to enter the city. There, more angels welcomed them. Pilgrim and hopeful no longer needed their armour, because in the Celestial City there were no enemies. There was no sadness, no wickedness and no despair. Everyone was happy, worshipping the King.

*Adapted from 'Pilgrim's Progress' by John Bunyan, 1678*

**Discussion**

- What was the job of Evangelist?
- What happened at the Gate of Decision?
- What did Pilgrim receive at the Palace Beautiful?
- What did Apollyan want to do?
- What did Giant Despair want to do?
- Whose servants were Apollyan and Giant despair?
- Where were Pilgrim and his friend Hopeful travelling to?
- In real life, what can happen to Christians to make them want to go away from God?
- What should Christians do when they feel that they are having a hard time?

**Word Search**

Find this Bible verse:

PUT ON: THE WHOLE: ARMOUR: OF GOD. (Eph 6:11)

D	R	W	I	J	A	N	B
P	J	G	F	E	R	L	J
U	J	G	F	L	M	I	Y
T	H	E	W	H	O	L	E
O	F	G	O	D	U	D	P
N	G	F	D	S	R	N	J

# God is Protector

## Week 3

### God is our shield

#### **Bible references**

1 Samuel 18-19 God protected David against Saul.

Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 18:2 God is a strong tower; a fortress.

Proverbs 30:5 God is our shield.

Psalm 18:30-36; Psalm 61:3 God is our protector.

Psalm 66:3 God is great.

#### **Introduction**

Think about the purpose of a shield. A shield is something that stands between you and danger. It stops the dangerous thing from harming you. We can ask God to be our shield. He will protect us from danger.

This true story tells us about the time when God protected one of His servants from danger. The servant's name was David, the shepherd boy who had killed Goliath.

#### **Bible lesson: God protects David again**

David had killed the Philistine giant, Goliath. After that, King Saul became extremely jealous of David because everyone thought David was so great. King Saul thought that the people might want David for their king instead of himself. The thought of this made him so angry that an evil spirit came into his heart.

David played music to Saul, to make him feel better, but as he was playing one day, King Saul took his spear and threw it at David. David dodged quickly and the spear missed him.

David wanted to marry King Saul's daughter, Michal. King Saul told David that he could have Michal as his wife if he won another battle against the Philistines. King Saul secretly hoped that David would be killed in the battle. But David was not killed. Saul had to give his daughter, Michal, to be David's wife.

Another time, King Saul tried to kill David with his spear, but he missed again. Saul said to his servants, "Bring David to me."

"He can't come," said Michal. "He's sick in bed."

"Bring him anyway," said Saul.

Michal played a trick on her father. She placed a stone statue on a stretcher bed and covered it with blankets. The servants took the bed to King Saul. In the meantime, David had run away. The king could not find him. God always protected David because David loved and obeyed God.

**Bible research**

Look up some of verse from Psalms and Proverbs which tell us about God's protection. (See Bible references.) Here are some words that the Bible uses to explain what God's protection is like.

**Word Search 1**

STRONG TOWER; SHIELD; REFUGE; FORTRESS; DEFENCE

C	F	J	K	M	O	P	S	Z	D	H	S
R	X	W	A	Y	L	T	F	T	E	M	H
E	F	R	N	B	D	W	R	G	F	J	I
F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S	U	E	G	E
U	K	S	W	I	X	N	T	V	N	J	L
G	P	A	H	R	I	K	B	M	C	L	D
E	Q	Z	Y	L	Y	D	M	P	E	E	F
O	S	T	R	O	N	G	T	O	W	E	R

**Art/Craft**

Make a shield of faith.



# God is Truth

## (3 weeks)



### Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God doesn't change
- God's truth never changes
- We can use our 'belt of truth' which is part of the armour of God
- God helps us know what is true and what is false if we ask Him to show us

### Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Scientific laws: States of matter; boiling point of water; melting and freezing; magnetism

### Link between "God is Truth" and the topics:

God created the universe with scientific laws that are true, dependable & unchanging, e.g. water always boils at the same temperature;

### Values:

Honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; integrity

# God is Truth

## Week 1

### God helps us to recognize what is true and what is false.

#### Bible references

Malachi 3:6 God doesn't change.

Ephesians 6:14 Put on the belt of truth.

Proverbs 20:23; Proverbs 21:22 Honesty in word and character.

#### The Truth Game

This game helps to give an understanding of 'true' and 'false'.

Collect items that are an imitation of real items.

EXAMPLES:

- imitation jewellery
- imitation fruit or flowers
- imitation vanilla essence / other artificial flavourings
- fridge magnets or plastic objects which imitate food items
- play money

#### Activity

Try to make some imitation food. An imitation dessert is a good example. Find a drinking glass or a glass dessert bowl. Scrunch up some coloured cellophane to represent jelly. Place it in the glass. Then add cotton wool for cream. Place a red button on top for a cherry.

#### Discussion

Compare imitation items with real items.

Discuss the fact that it is not always easy to distinguish between the true object and its imitation. Sometimes things look real, but they are not.

In order to find out whether something is real or not, we need to test the object. We can examine it closely. We can feel it. We can drop it. In the case of metal, we can test it with a magnet. A ring made from pure gold would not be attracted to a magnet, but a ring made from steel would be attracted.

Sometimes people can pretend to be telling the truth, when they are really lying.

How do we know if people's words and ideas are true or false?

Jesus is the truth, so we can ask Him. How can He speak to us?

He can speak to us through a small still voice in our hearts and minds. This is called our conscience. He can also speak to us through words in the Bible.

Sometimes people can pretend to be something they are not. They can pretend that they are honest, but really, they are trying to trick us. Don't believe everyone and everything. Ask God to show you what is true. Here is a made-up story about an animal which pretended to be someone else.

**Story 1: The goats and the wolf**  
**(A make-believe story)**

Once upon a time there were seven little goats. Sometimes mother goat had to go out and collect juicy thistles and dandelions for her kids. Before she left she would say, "Beware of the big bad wolf. Don't open the door to anyone while I am away. When I return I will say, "Open the door children. It's your mother," and I will show my paw at the window.

One day as mother goat was returning with her basket of thistles and dandelions, the big bad wolf was hiding in the bushes. He watched her show her white paw at the window and say, "Open the door children. It's your mother."

The next time the goat went away, the wolf was prepared. He had dipped his big brown paw in a sack full of flour so that it looked just like the mother goat's white paw. Then he called out in a high voice, just like the mother goat, "Open the door children. It's your mother."

The wolf had tricked the kids. They opened the door and the wolf rushed in. He ate two of the little goats. The wolf was so greedy that he swallowed them whole. The rest of the goats hid under the bed. The wolf couldn't find them so he went to sleep. While he was asleep, mother goat came home. The kids told her what had happened.

Mother goat took the rest of the goats down to the river. They all brought back some heavy stones. While the wolf was still asleep, mother goat took out her sewing basket. She carefully snipped open the wolf's stomach, and took out the kids. They were not hurt at all. Then all the kids filled the wolf's stomach with heavy stones and mother sewed him up again. When the wolf woke up he rushed to the river for a drink, but his stomach was so heavy that he fell in the water and drowned.

This story of course is only make-believe, but it does remind us that although something looks real and true, it may very well not be.

*Traditional folk tale*

**Story 2: The T.V. thief**

Unlike the last story, this story is a true one.

Mrs. Herbert had a T.V. that she wanted to sell. She placed an advertisement in the 'for sale' section of the local paper.

About that time, a thief who lived in the area, thought up a very unusual way to get into people's houses. He decided that he would pretend to be interested in buying

something second-hand from a person's home. Then he could go to the house and look around for things to steal. He could also work out how to break into the house at another time.

The thief looked up the 'for sale' section of the newspaper and found a T.V. listed. He rang the telephone number and arranged to visit the home of Mrs. Herbert.

Mrs. Herbert answered the door and invited the thief inside. (She did not know that he was a thief!)

"All my things really belong to the Lord," she told him. "I'm a Christian, you see."

As the thief looked around the room for things to steal, he suddenly felt very sorry about the life he was living. God started speaking to his heart. He decided that he must tell the truth.

"I'm not really interested in your T.V.," he said. "I'm a thief. I really came to see what I could steal."

"Can I pray for you?" asked Mrs. Herbert.

"Yes, please do," said the thief. "I don't want to live my life this way any longer."

We don't know whether the thief became a Christian or not, but from that moment on, he knew that God was real. He knew that God was asking him to live a truthful and honest life. Mrs. Herbert thanked God, not only for speaking to the thief, but also for protecting her things.

*Story told by Betty Herbert (U.K.) Used by permission*

### **Discussion**

What is dishonesty?

a) People can sometimes say things that sound true, but really are not true at all.

EXAMPLE:

Mum asks, "Did you brush your teeth?"

Billy answers, "Yes".

(Billy has given his teeth a two-second brush and has not used tooth-paste.)

b) People can also say that they will do something, but really they have no intention of doing it.

EXAMPLE:

Teacher asks the children to pick up papers. The children say, "Yes". However they deliberately do not do it.

### **Story 3: Free ride**

**(Not a true story, but could have been)**

Sam and Mark were bored. School holidays were halfway through and already they had nothing to do.

"I know," said Sam. "Let's take the bus to the city."

"We can't," said Mark. "We don't have any money. We spent the last of our money on those sweets yesterday."

"That's alright," said Sam. "Just leave it to me. Come on."

The boys ran to the bus stop and waited in line. The bus arrived and they climbed aboard.

"Now," said Sam. "We'll sneak past the driver so that he doesn't know we're on board. Just wait until he's busy giving change to someone and he won't notice us."

Soon the bus they wanted to travel on pulled up at a stop. The people getting off pushed their way through the crowd of people. More people got on. The two boys merged with the crowd.

"One stop to go," whispered Sam.

As the bus pulled into the city the boys breathed a sigh of relief. They quickly headed for the door, but in their rush, Mark tripped and fell down the steps. All eyes were now upon the boys.

### **How do you think the story ended?**

Which of these ways could the boys have used to get to the city, without being dishonest?

- a) asked their parents for the money
- b) stolen the money
- c) earned the money by doing jobs

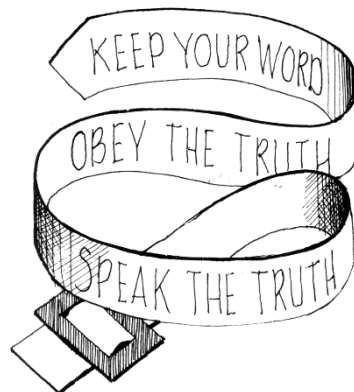
Which of the boys planned the mischief?

Was the other boy still to blame?

### **Activity**

Read about the belt of truth in Ephesians 6. Make a belt of truth from a long strip of paper and write on it some instructions for wearing a belt of truth:

- Keep your word
- Obey the truth
- Speak the truth



# God is Truth

## Week 2

### Stand up for God's truth

**God's truth does not change. We should never change our mind about believing in God.**

#### **Bible references**

Daniel 3 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not give up serving the true God.

Psalms 119:86 All God's commandments are trustworthy.

Malachi 3:6 I am the Lord. I do not change.

#### **Bible lesson:**

There was a time when God's people, the Israelites, were ruled by the king of Babylon. One day the king set up a huge gold statue. He told everyone that they must bow down and worship whenever special music was played.

He said, "If you don't bow down when the music plays then you will be thrown into a big fire."

There were three men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who worshipped the true God and knew that they must never bow down to a statue. They heard the music but they did not bow down. Someone told the king.

The king called Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and said that they must bow down and worship the statue.

The three men said, "We will never worship a statue."

The king was very angry and told his servants to make a very hot fire. They threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego into the fire.

But suddenly there were four men in the fire. They were all walking around in the fire and not burning up.

"Come out," called the king.

The king could see that the three men were not burned. Their clothes did not even smell like smoke.

The king knew that the true God had saved them. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew that the fourth man in the fire was the son of God, protecting them.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego only worshipped the true God. They would not bow down to statues, even though they knew they would be punished. They would only obey God. God was watching over the three men. He knew that these men loved and

obeyed Him. He protected them in the fire. Jesus was with them to keep them from harm. Even though they were in the middle of the flames, they were not hurt.

**Discussion**

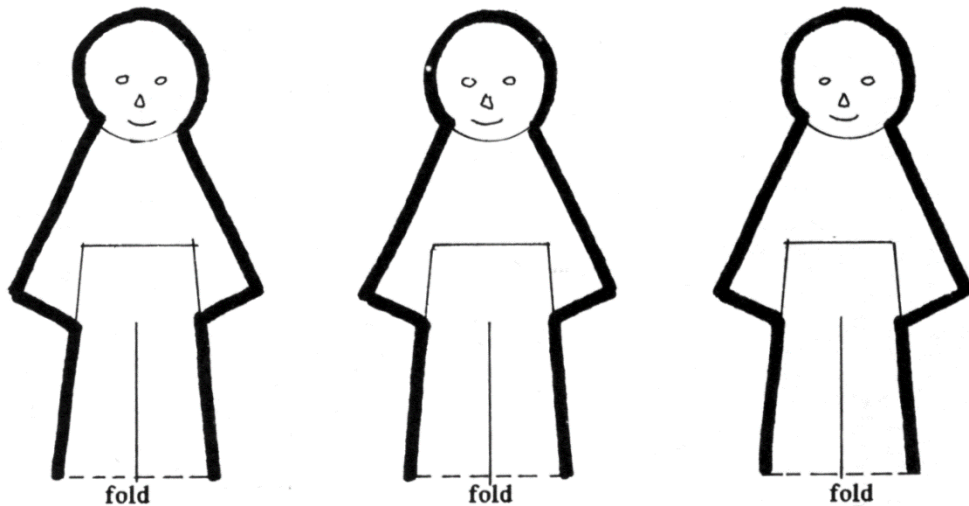
Why didn't Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego bow down and worship the statue?

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were being faithful to God. When we are faithful to someone, we never give up being their friend. God wants us to be faithful to Him. That means we must never give up being His friend.

What if someone is saying that God isn't true? Would you stand up for God and say that He IS true?

**Art/Craft**

Make three men who 'stand up' for God.



**We will stand up for God**

# God is Truth

## Week 3

### Never worship false gods.

#### Bible references

Exodus 32; Psalm 106:19-21 The golden calf

#### Game: Don't change your mind!

One child sits in the centre and has to think of a favourite toy, e.g. an electric train set.

The other children take turns to ask the question:

Would you prefer... (e.g. a skateboard)?

The child in the centre must answer truthfully, yes or no. The aim of the game is try to make the child in the centre change his mind.

(Favourite foods or holidays may be chosen instead of toys.)

Although we can change our mind about some things, we should never change our mind about believing in God. Here is a sad but true story about some people who did change their mind about the true God.

#### Bible lesson: The golden calf

God had told Moses to go up on the mountain top. Moses was told to bring with him two pieces of flat stone. There on the mountain top, God gave Moses ten special rules for His people to obey. The rules were called the Ten Commandments. God wrote the rules on the two pieces of flat stone.

Moses was up on the mountain a long, long time. The people were getting tired of waiting for him to come down. They could not move on without him and they were getting angry and impatient.

Then someone said, "How can we really believe in the God that Moses talks about. We can't see this God. Why don't we make a god that we can see!"

"What a good idea," said the others.

The people took off their gold rings and necklaces. They melted the gold over a very hot fire and used it to make a statue of a calf. Then they prepared a big feast. During the feast they danced around the golden calf and worshipped it.

God saw what the people were doing and He was very angry. He told Moses to go down from the mountain. Moses came down carrying the two pieces of stone upon which the Ten Commandments were written. He could hear the people singing and shouting. He looked closely and saw that the people were dancing around a golden calf. Moses was so angry that he threw down the pieces of stone. They broke into pieces. Then he went to the golden calf and threw it into the fire.



Moses then gathered the people before him. He told them about his time on the mountain with God. He told them about God's rules for His people. One of these rules was to never, never worship a statue. The people already knew that what they had done was wrong. They told Moses that they were sorry.

Moses then told God how sorry the people were. God asked Moses to bring two more pieces of stone to the mountain top. Once again God wrote the Ten Commandments for His people. He told Moses that if His people always followed these commandments, then He would be with them.



### Discussion

Why did the Israelites change their minds about believing in the true God?

Sometimes people today change their minds about believing in the true God. Why do you think this happens?

The people of Israel worshipped the golden calf. Worshipping anything else instead of God is worshipping an idol. Could people today worship idols?

### Fill in the missing words

1. Moses went up the \_\_\_\_\_ to talk with God.
2. God became very \_\_\_\_\_ with the people.
3. The people \_\_\_\_\_ around the statue.
4. They made the statue in the shape of a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. God gave Moses \_\_\_\_\_ rules.
6. The statue was made of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. An \_\_\_\_\_ is something people worship instead of God.

angry, ten, idol, gold, mountain, danced, calf

## 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
- 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:

Any creation topic that shows God's power and greatness

### 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

# God is Lord and King

## Week 1

### Preparation for the Christmas story

Prepare pictures of all the people/elements that make up the Christmas story:

- Mary
- Joseph
- Baby Jesus
- The Shepherds
- The angels
- The star
- The wise men

Use the figures to tell the Christmas story, and as you do over the next three weeks, gradually stick them one by one on to a big sheet of paper, building up a picture of the Christmas story.



# God is Lord and King

## Week 1

### Mary and Joseph

#### Introduction

Ask the children why they like Christmas.

Explain that there is a pretend part of Christmas and a real part of Christmas.

The pretend part of Christmas is about Santa and reindeers. The pretend part of Christmas goes away as children grow up, but the real part will never go away. The real part is that Jesus was born into the world. People like to celebrate Christmas with Christmas decorations and presents. Many people don't know why they celebrate Christmas, but we know the real reason.

Why do we celebrate Christmas?

- We celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- Jesus is the son of God.
- Christmas is the birthday of Jesus.

#### Bible lesson: Mary and Joseph

**Show a cut-out of Mary and stick it on the large sheet of paper to start the Christmas story picture. Ask the children what they know about her.**

Mary was Jesus mother. One day an angel came to Mary. The angel told her that she was going to have a baby. The baby was going to be God's son. She would become pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

The angel told Mary to name the baby Jesus. Mary knew that God was going to be the father of Jesus. God called Jesus His "one and only son". God loved us very much to send us His son.

**Show and add a picture of Joseph.**

**Ask the children what they know about Joseph.**

Although God was the real father of Jesus, Joseph was like a Dad to Jesus while he was growing up. Joseph was going to marry Mary. "Should I marry Mary?" he asked himself. She is going to have a baby."

An angel came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. This baby will be from the Holy Spirit." So Joseph married Mary. Then they traveled to Bethlehem, which was a long way from their own town. Everyone in their region had to go there to register their names, so that the government could see how many people lived in the land. When they arrived, Joseph had to find a place for them to sleep. The only place he could find was a stable where the animals slept, at the back of an inn. That night, baby Jesus was born.

**Show and add a picture of Baby Jesus.**

# God is Lord and King

## Week 2

### The shepherds and the angels

**Bible lesson:**

**Select pictures of the shepherds and the angels to use in this lesson.**

**What is a shepherd? What do they do? What was it like to be a shepherd in Bible times?**

(Explain that shepherd moved round the countryside with their sheep and often stayed out at night looking after them. They would build a fire and keep it going all night to keep wolves and foxes away. They used a crook to bring back any sheep that wandered away.)

**What is an angel? What do angels do?**

(An angel is a messenger from God. Many people in the Bible had visits from angels. The angels told them about important things that were to happen.)

**Show and add a picture of the shepherds.**

**Ask the student what they know about the shepherds.**

Read from the Bible the shepherd's encounter with the angels and tell how they hurried to find baby Jesus. (Luke 2:8-20)

# God is Lord and King

## Week 3

### The wise men

Select the picture of the wise men and the star to use in this lesson.

Show and add a picture of the wise men and the star and ask the children what they know about these.

Explain that the wise men had been following the Christmas star that God had put in the sky at the time of Jesus' birth. The star stayed in the sky for many months after the birth. The wise men came from a country far away. They traveled from the East on camels. Their history books told them that the star was a sign that a new king had been born. By the time they reached Bethlehem a whole year had passed. Jesus was now about a year old. They went to King Herod to ask where they could find the new king. King Herod did not know of any new king but asked the wise men to come back and tell him if they found him. When they did find the house where Mary, Joseph and Jesus were living they brought precious gifts of gold, expensive perfume and spices. They then went home a different way because they knew that King Herod was not a good king and might harm baby Jesus.

After that, Joseph was told by God in a dream to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt, away from King Herod. They stayed there until King Herod died, and then made their home in Nazareth, where Joseph worked as a carpenter.

#### Christmas word search

X	S	Y	T	V	W	J	E	S	U	S
T	H	O	R	I	I	V	W	X	G	R
N	E	S	J	O	S	E	P	H	O	G
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	D	S
A	H	F	T	R	M	A	R	Y	D	A
B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	D	S
Y	R	Z	M	A	N	G	E	R	V	T
K	D	H	E	R	O	D	M	L	H	P

Joseph  
Herod  
Wise men  
Baby  
Manger  
Mary  
Bethlehem  
Jesus

Shepherd  
Gold  
East  
Angel

