

Christian Education

Year 5 (age 10-11)



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Year 5

God is Love (5 weeks)



Resolving conflict through forgiveness and communication

Outcomes:

At the completion of the module students will understand that:

- Relationships between people may involve disagreements
- Barriers can develop between people through holding onto grudges
- Disagreements can be resolved through positive communication
- Breaking down barriers, or building bridges, can only be done when both sides co-operate: acknowledging wrong doing, saying sorry from one side and forgiveness from the other side
- Thoughtlessness, selfishness and lack of caring for others may cause conflict
- God wants us to extend love to those we might disagree with

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Communication

Link between “God is Love” and the topic:

Our God is a personal God who loves us and wants to communicate with us. We can communicate with Him through prayer. Good communication with others is important for good relationships.

Values

Compassion; Cultural understanding, empathy; appreciation of family and community; forgiveness and reconciliation

God is Love

Week 1

Quarrels in a family

Bible references

Genesis 37: 1-35 Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. They sold him as a slave to some traders.

Introduction

Sometimes Mums and Dads might give something to one member of the family and not to another. Here's an example:

Your older brother or sister has grown out of their clothes. They get some new clothes and you don't. You have to wear the clothes that used to belong to your brother or sister.

How would you feel?

(Write a list of emotions, e.g. angry, annoyed, jealous)

What is the meaning of jealous?

How would God want us to react?

Bible lesson

For the next three weeks we are going to study the true story of a family in Old Testament times. Joseph and his family lived in the land of Canaan. (Point out Israel on a map.) Joseph's father's name was Jacob. Joseph had eleven brothers.

One night, Joseph dreamed a very strange dream. Joseph told his brother about the dream.

"We were out in the field tying the wheat into bundles. Suddenly my bundle of wheat stood up straight. Then all of your bundles made a circle around mine and bowed down to it."

Joseph's brothers were angry. "Who do you think you are?" they said. "Do you think we are all going to bow down to you?"

Not long after, Joseph had another strange dream. This time he told his whole family about it.

"I dreamed that the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

The eleven brothers soon realized that they were the eleven stars, and Jacob could see that the sun and moon stood for himself and his wife.

"Surely Joseph doesn't think that we are going to treat him as the boss," said the brothers.

"Do you really think that you will be more important than your parents?" Jacob asked Joseph.

But Jacob thought about the dream. Could it be God's way of telling Joseph that He had chosen him to be someone special in the family?

One day Jacob came looking for Joseph. He had a special job for him to do. "Your older brothers have been away a long time," he said. "I'm worried about them. Please go and look for them and make sure they are safe."

Joseph set off in the direction his brothers had gone. The brothers saw Joseph coming in the distance. They knew it was him because he was wearing a new coat of many colours that his father had given him.

"Look!" called one of them. "Here comes the dreamer!"
"We've got him on his own now. Why don't we kill him while we have the chance?"

Reuben, the eldest son, tried to stop them. "We shouldn't kill him," he said. "Let's just throw him down this dried-up well. That should teach him a lesson!"

As Joseph came nearer two of the biggest brothers grabbed him, while another brother ripped off his beautiful coat. Then they threw him into the deep well.

The brothers sat down to eat some food while poor Joseph called for help. Then the brothers saw a long line of camels coming towards them. Soon they could see that it was a party of traders, their camels loaded with spices. They would be going to Egypt to sell their goods.

"Why not sell Joseph to the traders?" one brother suggested. "We can sell ask the traders to sell him as a slave in Egypt, and earn ourselves a bit of money. They all agreed, except for Reuben who had gone away. While some of the brothers bargained with the traders, the others hauled Joseph up from the well. The traders agreed that he would fetch a good price in the slave market because he was healthy and strong.

Soon Reuben returned. He had been planning to rescue Joseph secretly and bring him back to Jacob. When he found that the well was empty he was horrified. Had his brothers killed Joseph? The brothers explained what they had done. Now they must decide what to tell their father.

They picked up Joseph's fine coat, which they had ripped off him, and smeared it with goat's blood. As soon as they reached home, they took the spoiled coat to Jacob. When Jacob saw the blood-stained coat he let out a great cry. "A wild animal must have killed him," he exclaimed. "My own dear son Joseph is dead! I shall never see him again! I shall mourn for him all my life!"

All this while, Joseph, tied securely with ropes, was being pushed and dragged along the road to Egypt. But God was still with him.

Discussion

What special thing did Jacob give to Joseph?
How did the brothers feel about this?
What other things caused the brothers to dislike Joseph?

Two Brothers (*Play reading*)

John: (*shouting*)

OK Who's put a great hole in my skateboard! (*John notices that there is a small chip in one side.*) You did it, didn't you! You always ruin my things!

Ben:

Why me? Maybe you did it yourself and you've only just noticed it.

John:

Fat chance! Don't you think I know what my own skateboard looks like? Don't expect to use anything of mine ever again.

Ben:

OK then. Don't expect to use anything of mine ever again either.

Discussion

Think about three different possible endings:

- a) The boys don't speak to each other.
- b) The boys have a fight.
- c) The boys decide to forgive one another.

When two people have a fight, the bitterness and hatred they feel for one another continues until the trouble is settled. When people settle their differences and come into right relationship again, it is called RECONCILIATION. Reconciliation is making peace.

In the case of Joseph, how do you think he would be feeling towards his brothers?
We will find out over the next two weeks how God turned this terrible event into good, and how there was reconciliation.

God is Love

Week 2

God loves us and has a plan for us

God's plan for Joseph

Introduction

Last week we heard about a family in Bible times that had big troubles.

Who was hated by his brothers?

Why was he hated by his brothers?

What did his brothers do to him?

What emotion is the opposite to hate?

How does God feel when people hate one another?

Bible lesson

Genesis 37:36, Genesis 39 and Genesis 41:1-58

Joseph sold as a slave

When the traders arrived in Egypt they took Joseph to the trade market where he was put up for sale. A man called Potiphar bought Joseph. He was an important officer of the king, in charge of guarding the king's palace. Potiphar was happy with Joseph who was strong and healthy and worked hard. Joseph was also able to plan and organize work for himself, as well as obeying orders. He was honest and did not grumble or neglect his duties.

Potiphar soon made Joseph his own special servant and began to leave more and more of the running of the household to Joseph. Potiphar could tell that there was something special about this young man. It was because God was with Joseph, even though he was far away from his home and family. God helped Joseph do his work well and he was successful.

Joseph thrown into prison

Joseph was a trusted servant, but soon he was in trouble again through no fault of his own. Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to do something that was wrong, but Joseph would not listen to her. She became angry and told lies about Joseph. Potiphar believed the lies and ordered that Joseph be taken off to prison. His feet were put into chains and an iron collar was fixed around his neck. He was no longer the trusted slave. But God was with Joseph, even in the dark prison. He had not forgotten him, or the great plan he had for Joseph.

Two of the king's servants, a butler and a baker had been thrown into prison because the king was displeased with them. One night they both had dreams. They believed that their dreams had special meanings, but they did not know what the meaning was. They told Joseph about their dreams. The butler said, "I dreamed about a vine with three branches. First there were buds and then there were flowers, and then there were grapes on the vines. I had the king's cup in my hands. I squeezed the juice from the grapes into the cup and gave it to the king."

Joseph said, "This is the meaning of your dream. The three branches are three days. In three days the king will come to the prison and take you back to the palace and make you the king's butler again. You will give him his wine as you did before."

Then the baker told Joseph about his dream. He said, "In my dream I had three white baskets on my head, one on top of another. In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for the king. But the birds came and ate the food from the basket on my head."

Then Joseph said, "This is the meaning of your dream, "In three days the king will come to the prison and kill you. Your body will be hung on a tree and the birds will come and eat your flesh."

Joseph then said to the butler, "When you go back to the palace, please be so kind as to remember me, and tell the king about me. Tell him that I have done nothing wrong and that I should be released from prison."

Joseph had given the correct meaning of the dreams. God had given him the wisdom and knowledge to interpret the dreams. The event happened exactly as Joseph said it would. The butler went back to serving the king's wine, but he forgot to tell the king about Joseph, until a whole year later when the king himself had a dream.

The king thought that this dream had special meaning but none of his advisors could explain it. Then the butler remembered that Joseph had a special ability to interpret dreams. He told the king about it. Joseph was brought before the king.

"I am told that you can explain dreams," the king said.

"I cannot do so," Joseph replied, "but God can."

"In my dream," said the king, "I saw seven fat cows coming up out of the river to feed on grass. Seven thin, bony cows stood beside them. The thin cows ate up the fat ones. After that I had another dream. I saw seven full, ripe ears of grain beside seven thin, withered ears of grain. The thin ears ate up the full ones. What do these dreams mean?"

God is telling you what is going to happen, so that you can be prepared," Joseph explained. "The two dreams mean the same thing. There will be seven years of good crops, when everyone has plenty. But seven years of bad harvest will follow. The seven years when food is short will use up all the food grown in the seven good years. That is the meaning of your dream."

Joseph is given a new position

When the king of Egypt heard Joseph explain the dreams he was alarmed. But Joseph had something more to say.

"I believe that God has told me to tell you this: Choose one of your men and put him in charge of all food supplies. He can supervise the storage of grain during the good years, so there will be enough to feed everyone during the years when the crops fail. Then the people won't starve."

The king was pleased with Joseph and his wise advice. "*You shall be that man!*" he announced. "You have shown how wise you are, so I shall put you in charge of everything that needs to be done in the whole of Egypt. You shall be my new prime minister."

On the king's orders Joseph was given a fine chariot, servants of his own and fine clothes. Joseph had learned to trust God and to do his work well, as a slave and even when in prison. He set about his important duties in just the same way. He traveled all over Egypt. In every city he gave orders for huge storage buildings to be constructed for storing the grain.

Seven good years of harvest brought huge quantities of grain. Joseph arranged for it to be stored all over the country. Then came the bad years when no crops would grow. Joseph was busier than ever selling grain and seeing that it was fairly shared out.

Discussion: God’s special plan for us

- How do we know that Joseph loved and served God? (He relied on God to interpret dreams. In order to do this we know that he was in communication with God.)
- What character qualities did Joseph show? (Make a list.)
- Obedience to God and good character made Joseph a good servant of God.
- When we give our lives to God and ask Him to guide our life, He has a special work for us to do. Joseph had a special work. What was it?
- God loves everyone and has a special plan for everyone. But it is only when we submit our lives to God that we see the outworking of that plan.
- It is a good idea to be praying about God’s special plan for your life even when you are young. If you really love God and want to serve God He will show you what He wants you to do for Him.

God is Love

Week 3

Reconciliation

Bible references

Genesis 42 – 46 Joseph

Matthew 5:21-23 Make peace with your brother.

Romans 5:9-10 Reconciliation with God.

Introduction

We have been learning about Joseph. This is a true story from history. Joseph was badly treated by his brothers. He was sold as a slave and ended up in prison in Egypt for doing nothing wrong at all. He could have been angry towards his brothers, angry towards God and angry towards the world. He could have been a grumpy, unhelpful and hateful person because of all that he experienced. But he trusted and obeyed God in the bad situation. Because he did this God was able to use him greatly. God gave him wisdom to interpret dreams. He was able to interpret the king’s dreams, which were a warning from God to save food in the good years in order to have enough for the bad years. Joseph was put in charge of distributing the food in the bad years and the whole country of Egypt was saved.

Bible Lesson

Food in Egypt

It was not only the land of Egypt that was hit by the famine. Soon the people of the surrounding countries heard that there was grain to be bought in Egypt. They travelled to Joseph to ask if they could buy grain to take home.

Joseph's family lived in a neighbouring country called Canaan. They were hungry too. "I hear that they have grain to sell in Egypt," Jacob told his sons. "Go there and buy some food for us."

All the brothers set out, except for Benjamin. He was the youngest and very dear to Jacob.

As soon as the ten brothers entered the place where Joseph was organizing the distribution of grain, Joseph saw them and recognized them. But they did not recognize him. He was older now and dressed like an Egyptian.

"Where do you come from?" Joseph asked sternly. He spoke in Egyptian and a servant translated all that was said.

"From Canaan," they answered. "We have come to buy grain."

"I don't believe you," said Joseph. "I believe you are spies."

"No, we are honest men," they protested.

"Then tell me about yourselves," Joseph insisted.

"There were twelve of us, all brothers," they began, "but one brother is dead and the youngest brother is at home."

"Prove that you are telling the truth by bringing the youngest brother with you next time you come," he said. "I am going to keep one of you here as a hostage until you return."

Simeon was taken away and put into prison. The others were allowed to go back to Canaan with sacks full of grain. When they arrived home and opened the sacks they were horrified to find their own bags of money lying on top of the grain. They had been given back all that they had paid.

"Now we'll be accused of being thieves as well as spies," they cried.

They did not know that Joseph had told his servants to put the money there. He was trying to find out what kind of men his brothers had turned out to be.

Little by little their supply of Egyptian grain ran out and soon Jacob and his large family were hungry again. Jacob asked the nine brothers to go back to Egypt to buy more grain.

"But we must take Benjamin with us," they replied.

"No!" Jacob cried. "Joseph is dead, Simeon is in prison. You can't take Benjamin away."

"We shall all be out to death as spies if we don't," the brothers reasoned.

Then Judah, the one who had suggested selling Joseph as a slave so many years before, spoke up. "I promise on my life to take care of Benjamin," he said to Jacob.

Jacob agreed reluctantly and the eleven brothers left for Egypt. To their great relief they were kindly welcomed and shown to Joseph's house. When Joseph saw Benjamin he could hardly hold back the tears of joy. He ordered Simeon to be released and then invited them all to dinner. The brothers were relieved. When the brothers came to sit at the dinner table they were amazed to find that they had been placed in exact order of age. How could anyone have known their ages?

The missing cup

The brothers bought their grain and headed home. But suddenly they saw a distant horseman speeding towards them. As he came nearer they recognized with sinking hearts that this was a servant of the governor of Egypt.

"How dare you steal my master's best silver cup?" he shouted as he drew level with them.

"We don't know what you mean," they protested. "We have stolen nothing. If any one of us has the cup you can put him to death and keep the rest of us as slaves."

The servant searched their baggage and opened their sacks of grain. The last sack he opened was Benjamin's. There, glinting in the sun was the silver cup. How terrible! They reloaded their donkeys and silently followed the servant back to Joseph. They didn't know that this was part of Joseph's plan to find out what his brothers were really like. When he heard the servant's report, Joseph said, "None but the guilty man shall be my slave." Then Judah stepped forward.

"If you keep Benjamin, my father will die of grief. Please keep me instead."

Joseph could see that his brothers were very different now. They were not the mean, heartless brothers that had sold him as a slave and made his father believe that he was dead. There were tears in his eyes. He could not keep the truth from them any longer.

"Go out of the room!" he told the servants. Then he spoke to his brothers in their own language. "I am Joseph," he told them, "your long-lost brother."

Reconciliation

Now the brothers were afraid. The governor of Egypt was their brother who they had treated so badly many years before. Would he make them pay for what they had done? But no, Joseph told them to come close to him. Then he hugged and kissed them all in turn, beginning with Benjamin.

"Do not be afraid," he told them. "God has looked after me. He had a plan when he brought me here to Egypt. I have been able to save many lives. Now you must hurry back to fetch your father and our whole family. There are still five more years of the

famine to come. I will see that you are settled in Goshen, where the pastures are good for your flocks.”

The brothers returned home happily. “Joseph is still alive!” they called out to Jacob, “and he is governor of all of Egypt.”

Old Jacob would not believe them until he saw the wonderful presents that Joseph had sent him. They gathered their flocks and herds together and begun the slow journey to Egypt, to settle in the land that Joseph was preparing for them.

Discussion

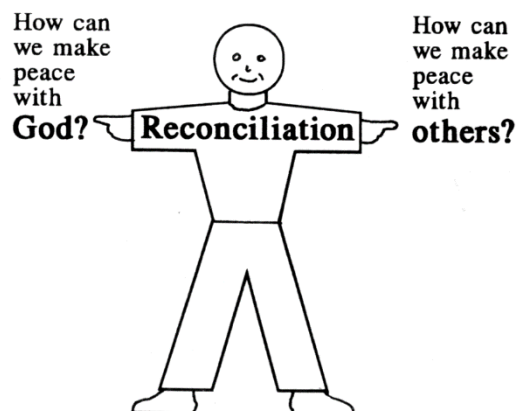
When two people have a fight or a disagreement, there is a communication breakdown. But when people forgive one another the communication can be restored. This is called ‘reconciliation’.

How would you feel if you were Joseph?

You would think that the way the brothers treated him would cause Joseph to hate his brothers for the rest of his life. You would think that when the brothers came to Egypt to ask for their supply of grain he could have taken revenge. But Joseph didn't take revenge. He forgave his brothers instead. He wanted his whole family to come to be with him in Egypt. The family was reconciled. Joseph gave them the best land in Egypt and all the food they needed.

Read Romans 5:9-10

Because God is perfect, we can only be His friends if we are perfect. But no one is. So there's a problem. God solved this problem by sending His son to die for us. Through His death on the cross, Jesus took the sin of the whole world. But because God does not force anyone to love Him, only those who ask to be forgiven and made right with God can be friends with God. Once we were enemies of God because of our sin, but He forgave us and made us His friends. This is also reconciliation.



Prayer

Ask the students to pray silently for a few moments. Ask them to think of anyone who has done wrong towards them. Ask them to tell God about it and ask God to help them to love that person.

If anyone wants to ask God to forgive them and become His friend they can also pray for this.

God is Love

Week 4

Be a peacemaker

Bible references

Mark 9:50; 1 Thessalonians 5:13 Peace with one another

Psalms 2; Ephesians 2:22; Romans 10:12-21 Peace for nations

Romans 12:17 Don't repay evil for evil.

Romans 12:18-21 Don't take revenge.

Matthew 5:38-42 Don't fight back.

Matthew 5:43-48 Love your enemies.

Matthew 26:50-56; Luke 23:34 Jesus set the example.

Matthew 5:9 Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them His children!

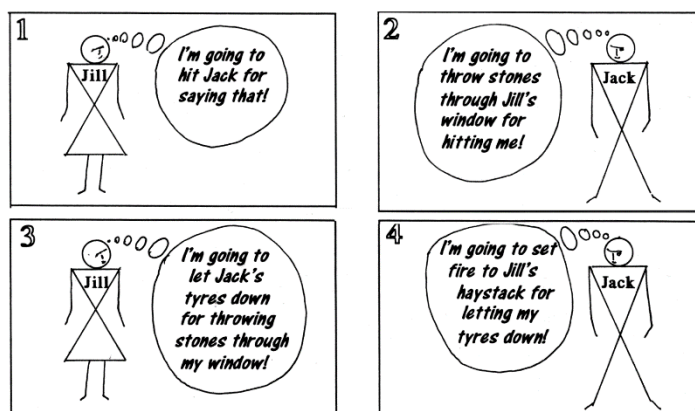
Bible lesson

Discuss the Old Testament saying, "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." (Matthew 5:38)

Why do you think Jesus set a new example? (Matthew 5:39-40)

Which is harder to practice: the old way or the new way?

An eye for an eye is the same as taking revenge. Taking revenge only makes a problem into a bigger problem. Forgiveness is the better way.



Read Matthew 5:43-44. If we find it hard to love our enemies, then there is something we can do to help. Find it in verse 44.

How did Jesus put His own words into practice at His crucifixion and the time leading up to it?

Luke 23:34 Jesus forgave His enemies.

Jesus told Peter not to fight back

Read the passage from Matthew 26: 50-56 where Jesus told Peter to put away his sword.

How did Peter feel about Jesus being taken away?

Did he have a right to be angry?

What did Jesus tell him to do?

True story: Martin Luther King

Martin Luther King was the minister of a Baptist church in Alabama, U.S.A. He was a Negro, also called an Afro-American. He was one of the dark-skinned people living in the USA. Up until the 1960s the dark-skinned people who lived in the USA could not:

- Sit on the seats in buses if white people were standing
- Go to the same schools as white people
- Play in the same parks as white people
- Eat in the same restaurants as white people

One evening in 1955, a bus in Montgomery, Alabama stopped for passengers. Six white people got on. There were no seats left, so the driver asked some Negroes to stand. Several got up but Mrs. Rosa Parks didn't. She was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white person. Although not the first incident of its kind, it stirred King and some others into action. Martin Luther King believed that he must take action against injustice in a non-violent way. Overnight the word got around among the Negroes in all parts of the city. Martin Luther King asked all Negroes not to travel by bus next Monday. The people walked to work instead and some rode on mules or horses. That evening a meeting was held in one of the city's churches. Thousands gathered outside. It was decided that they would do this until the laws were changed.

This was the beginning of a campaign. King delivered a speech which explained how the campaign would be run.

He told the crowd that love must be their ideal. 'Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you.' He believed that if they failed to do that, their protest would be meaningless, and only bring shame upon themselves. He told the people that in spite of the mistreatment they had received, they must not become bitter, and end up hating white people.

When the Afro-Americans refused to travel on the buses in Montgomery, but didn't fight about it, they were starting something new for America. They were seeking freedom for Afro-Americans by non-violence. They decided that even if they were

arrested and punched or kicked or hurt, they would not punch back, kick back, or hurt anyone who hurts them. Through their courage, more and more Afro-Americans and white people became aware of the way dark-skinned people were being treated and how unfair it was to behave like this towards other people just because of the colour of their skin.

The campaign continued for over a year. As they were met with violence, King continually reminded the people of their non-violent stand. One night King's house was bombed while he was at a meeting. He spoke to the crowd who gathered at the scene. After assuring them that his wife and baby were alright, he told them to go home and to put down their weapons. He reminded them that the problem could not be solved through retaliatory violence. Remember the words of Jesus, he said: 'He who lives by the sword will perish by the sword.' King told the people again that they must love their white brothers no matter what they did to the Negroes. He believed that meeting hate with love was the only way.

Many times Martin Luther King was put in jail. Often his life was in danger but he wasn't afraid. He was sure God was saying to him, "Stand for truth, stand for righteousness; I am with you."

Martin Luther King's life came to an end on April 4th 1968 when he was shot.

Just before his death, Martin Luther King said:

*"I still have a dream today,
That one day war will come to an end,
That men will beat their swords into ploughshares
And their spears into pruning hooks...
With this faith we will be able to speed up the day
When there will be peace on earth
And goodwill towards men.
It will be a glorious day
The morning stars will sing together
And the sons of God will shout for joy."*

Just before Jesus died, He said:

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34

Discussion

1. Why was Rosa Parks arrested?
2. What does this tell us about the laws in the U.S.A. at the time?
3. If you were a black person, how would you feel?
4. How COULD you show your anger if this sort of thing happened to you?
5. How did Martin Luther King stand against the injustice without violence?
6. King told his people that they must not hate white people, even though white people had mistreated them. Although we may hate the things people *do*, it is wrong to hate people. What did Jesus say about this? Find 3 words. (LOVE YOUR ENEMIES)

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

Act it out

Work with someone to make up a drama sketch about loving your enemies.

EXAMPLE:

Scene 1

Samuel is captain of the class cricket team and will never let David have a bat because he says David is not good at cricket.

Scene 2

David brings a bag of marbles to the playground and organises a game. He shares out the marbles, allowing Samuel to join in the game.

The prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Lord, use me to make peace.

Where there is hate, let me plant love;

Where there is hurt, let me plant forgiveness;

Where people are without hope, let me plant hope;

Where there is darkness, let me plant light;

And where there is sadness, let me plant happiness.

Love your neighbour

When Jesus said, "Love your neighbour as yourself," he wasn't just talking about loving those in our group or those with the same cultural background. He meant *everyone*. He used the story of the Good Samaritan to show that we must treat everyone with love, even those who are from a different country, even those who are not in our particular cultural group. To *not* love and accept others is prejudice. A peacemaker does not support prejudice but welcomes and accepts those who are not in their group.

God is Love

Week 5 Barriers

Bible references

Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23 When people sin they are separated from God. Sin makes a barrier between people and God.

Colossians 1:20 Christ's death on the cross broke the barrier.

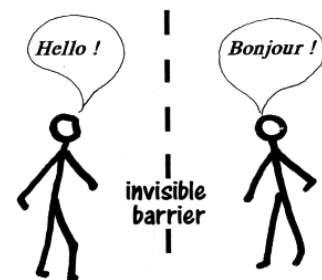
Ephesians 2:14 He is our peace...He has broken down the wall.

Romans 5:1; 1 John 1:9 If we ask Jesus to forgive us, and if we have faith in God, we can have peace with God.

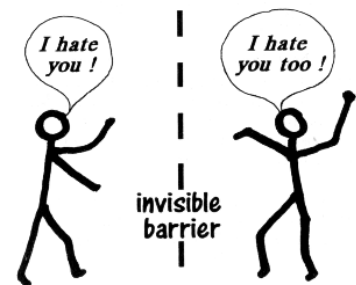
Discussion: Barriers

Make a list of as many different kinds of barriers as you can think of. (Some examples would be walls, fences, road-blocks, and railway gates.) Try to find pictures of some of these.

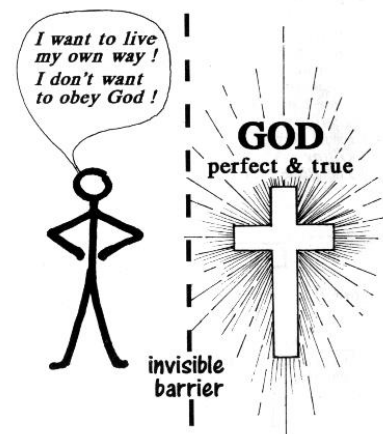
Sometimes barriers can be invisible. When two people speak different languages we say that there is a language barrier between them because they cannot communicate.



When two people hate each other we can also say there is a barrier between them. Because they hate each other they may decide not to communicate.



When people do wrong things and live only for themselves, an invisible barrier is placed between people and God.



Bible lesson: The Beginning of Sin

Read Genesis 3:1-14; 3:17, 23 & 24.

What was the invisible barrier that came between the man, the woman, and God?

What did it mean for them?

How did it change their lives?

Activity**Preparation**

Take a large sheet of paper and cover it with signs and pictures which explain the invisible barrier between people and God, e.g.

- I hate him
- fighting
- jealousy
- I don't want anything to do with God
- stealing
- I will do my own thing
- killing
- The Bible isn't true

Discuss the meaning of the signs.

Take another large sheet of paper. Draw a large cross on the sheet of paper. Ask the student to make some paper signs, cut them out and glue them on the cross:

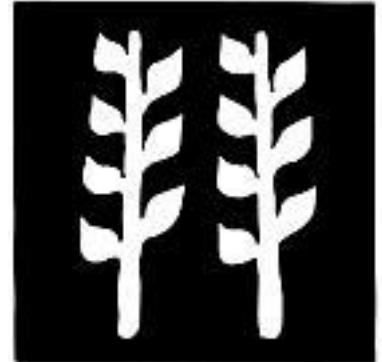
- Thank you Jesus for dying for me
- Jesus broke down the barrier of sin
- I am forgiven
- Jesus loves me
- Jesus died for my sin

Now the climax

Display the two sheets of paper. Rip up the first sheet of paper. Explain that this is what happens when people accept Jesus into their lives and ask Him to break the barrier of sin.

Year 5

God is Provider (5 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That God expects us to be good stewards of all that He has provided
- That it is important to thank God for His provision
- That possessions are not the most important things in life
- That some people make a god out of their possessions
- That God expects us to share the things He has provided
- That being a servant of God is better than being rich

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Rainforests and forestry

Link between “God is Provider” and the topics:

The world’s rainforests provide homes for animals, plants for medicines and purify the air. Our forests are rapidly being destroyed and many animals and plants are becoming extinct as a result. As God’s stewards we should be concerned about the destruction of the earth’s precious resources that God has provided.

Values:

Faith; care for the environmental; generosity, thankfulness

God is Provider

Week 1

Taking care of God's provision

Bible references:

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
Ps 50:10 For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

Deut 8:18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which He swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Matthew 10:29 - that even the sparrow does not fall to the ground without Him noticing it.

If God loves every tiny bird then we should do what we can to preserve and protect God's creation rather than to cause harm and destroy it.

Introduction

Begin the lesson by reading the Matthew 10:29. Explain that if God loves every tiny bird then we should do what we can to preserve and protect God's creation rather than to cause harm and destroy it. God has asked us to be good stewards of the earth and all that He has created.

A steward is a person that takes care of the possessions of another person.

Who owns all the possessions in the world? Read Psalm 24:1 and Psalm 50:10

God has given us the opportunity to care of His possessions. God asks us to be good stewards of His gifts.

Here are some different ways in which we can be good stewards:

- Caring for God's gift of our beautiful world, its creatures, the plants and the soil (Read Genesis 1:28 and 2:15)
- Caring for God's gift of each other
- Caring for God's gift of ourselves
- Caring for money that we earn, or not wasting the money that our parents earn

Read Deut 8:18 Who gives people the ability to earn money? God expects people to give some of that money back to Him. The money that people give to God can be used to help God's work, including helping those who do not have the things they need.

What are some of the things God gives to us?

We shouldn't waste what God gives us. We should look after our homes and our things carefully.

What things do you own? How can you look after...

Clothes?

Books?

Sports equipment?

Toys?

Why should we look after our things?

God is Provider

Week 2

Quarrelling over possessions

Bible references:

Genesis 13-14:7 Abram's unselfish choice: a peaceful end to quarrelling.

Job 22:21-23 Stop quarrelling.

Mark 9:50 Peace with one another.

Matt 20:16 The first shall be last

Introduction: A story about sharing

Ask the students if they have ever seen seagulls or other animals fighting over food.

A family decided to go for a picnic. When they arrived at the park there were a few seagulls on the grass. They sat down and opened their picnic. Immediately the seagulls started crowding around them. Some more seagulls flew in to see what was going on.

The seagulls did not take their eyes off the food. They were just waiting for a chance to move in and gather up a crust or a crumb that might drop on to the ground. Well, that did not take long to happen.

Soon one of the younger children dropped a piece of his sandwich, and much to his surprise there were great squawks, and then a flutter of wings. It was a great race amongst the seagulls to see who could get to the food first. It was a case of first in, first served. A rather proud looking seagull took the first piece of bread and flew off with it. The seagull did not go too far away though, because he did not want to miss the chance of collecting a second piece.

From the moment the proud seagull picked up the bread, the others were after him, squawking and fighting and pushing in. But the big proud seagull did not let go of his prize.

The children threw a few more pieces of food. Each time there was the same big commotion. The seagulls fought and squabbled, and never for a moment thought of sharing.

People can fight with each other, a bit like seagulls. They push others out of the way because they want to get there first. They want the biggest and best of everything. Jesus said that the people who are happiest are the ones who don't always push in to be first, but who let others go before them. He said that the first in His kingdom are really the last, and the last are really the first.

Bible Lesson: Abram's choice

In the Old Testament we are told about a man named Abram. Later God changed his name to Abraham because he became the father of many nations including the nation of Israel.

God told Abram and his wife Sarah to make a journey to a new land, because God was going to bless him with a large family. Abram and his wife had no children but they had many relatives. They all gathered up all their possession – their tents, their animals, their clothes and food. They made the long journey to a new land. When they finally arrived in the new land they set up camp. One of Abraham's nephews was called Lot. Soon quarrels broke out between Lot's servant and Abram's servants. They quarrelled about the best grass and the shadiest water holes.

"We are going to feed our sheep here," Lot's servants would say.

"No, we were here first. We are going to feed our sheep here. You go away," Abram's servants would answer.

Abram knew that God was not pleased when the servants quarrelled together. Abram said to Lot, "Our servants are always quarrelling. Soon they will make us quarrel too. Let's not live together anymore."

Then Abram took Lot to a place where they could look over the land about them. "You choose first," said Abram.

Lot looked at all the land about him. He could see the River Jordan and the green grassy land around it. Lot chose the best land for himself. He said, "I will go there," and pointed to the lovely land around the river.

Abram did not argue. He allowed Lot to have the best land. Abram took the land that was left. It was not good land, but he was not sad about what he had done. He knew that he had done what God wanted him to do. Because Abram pleased God, God blessed Abram with more than he could ever wish for, and he was very happy. Later, when God gave Abram a son, He changed his name to Abraham and he became the father of the nation of Israel.

Discussion

Lot chose the best land. What does that tell us about Lot?

What should our response be if we are offered a plate of cake and some pieces bigger than the others?

How did God reward Abram for making the unselfish choice?

What possessions do people fight over today? (Land, inheritances, chiefly titles etc.). If people love possessions too much then it can break up relationships and friendships.

God is Provider

Week 3

Sharing our possessions

Bible references:

Genesis 18:1-15

Introduction

Last week we learned about God's instructions to Abram to make a long journey with his whole family to a new land. God was going to make him the father of many nations, including the nation of Israel. We learned that Abram, who was later called Abraham, was not selfish. When a quarrel broke out between his servants and the servants of his nephew Lot, over who would take the best land, Abram allowed Lot to take the best land.

Bible Lesson: Abraham and Sarah

Abraham and his wife Sarah loved God. They listened to God and did the things He told them. One day God told Abraham something he could hardly believe. God said that Abraham would be a father of many children.

Sarah and Abraham were quite old. They had no children of their own, and were really too old to have children now. Abraham waited, day after day, for God to do the thing that He had promised. Abraham had to be very patient. One day Abraham was sitting at the entrance of his tent. It was lunch time. The sun was high in the sky and it was very hot. He looked up and saw three men. They were strangers.

"Please stop and rest," he said to the strangers. "Come and sit down under this tree and I will bring you a bowl of water for you to wash your feet. I will also get some food for you so that you will have strength for the rest of your journey."

"Thank you," said the men. "We accept."

Abraham went to Sarah.

"Quickly bake some bread from the best flour," he said. "We have some visitors."

Abraham went to get some food. He set out the food under the tree and the men ate it. Then one of the men said, "Where is your wife, Sarah?"

"In the tent," said Abraham.

"Nine months from now she will have a baby," said the man.

Sarah heard the man say this. She was listening at the doorway. She laughed because she thought she was too old to have a baby. Then God spoke to Abraham. God said, "Sarah should not have laughed because there is nothing too hard for the Lord."

Nine months later, Sarah did have a baby. His name was Isaac. When Isaac grew up he had a son... When his son grew up he had a son... When that son grew up he had a son... and so the family kept on growing, until finally one of Abraham's great, great, great grandchildren had a very special baby. His name was Jesus.

Abraham did become the father of many children...many great, great grandchildren and the father of a great nation...the nation of Israel. Like Abraham we have to be patient in order to see God's promises come true. It may seem to take a long time, but if God says He will do something, we can be sure He will keep His word.

Discussion

We already know that Abraham was not selfish. We learned last week that he gave the best land to his nephew Lot.

In today's lesson we saw how he invited strangers into his home and gave them food and drink. This is called showing hospitality. Hospitality is when we share our home and our food with others.

What kind of food does your family share when visitors come to your home?

God rewarded Abraham for his kindness to others. He gave him a son when he thought he would never have a son because he and his wife were too old. But nothing is impossible with God!

Generosity

What is generosity?

- Giving and sharing
- Giving because you want to, not because you will receive a reward
- A way of showing love and friendship

Discuss with your partner:

What kind of gifts do people appreciate the most?

When is it difficult to share?

How do we practice generosity?

- We think of ways to share what you have
- We think about what people need
- We give our time, ideas, things or money to those who need it

Discuss with your partner:

How does it feel to give something to someone?

Who do you know that has a need?

Write: three ways you can be generous today.

I am generous when:

I look for opportunities to give and share; I give freely, fully and joyfully

God is Provider

Week 4

Making possessions a god

Bible references

Mark 14:3-11; Matt 26:6-16 Judas

Matthew 19:16-24. The rich young ruler

Luke 9:23-26 Will a person gain anything if he wins the whole world, but loses his soul?

Luke 21:1-4 The widow's generous gift

1 Tim 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with much grief.

Judas

Judas was one of the twelve disciples. He criticized Mary for pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet. He didn't see any sense in wasting money. Perhaps Mary knew what others did not believe, that Jesus was soon to die; and she showed her love for him, and her sorrow for his coming death, by this rich gift of perfume.

But Judas, the disciple who carried the bag, was very angry at Jesus; and from that time he was looking for a chance to betray Jesus, or to give him up to his enemies. He went to the chief priests, and said, "What will you give me if I will put Jesus into your hands?"

They said, "We will give you thirty pieces of silver."

Because Judas loved money more than anything he was willing to betray Jesus and lead Jesus to the Roman guards, who took him away to be crucified... all for 30 pieces of silver.

This true story had a sad ending. Judas later felt so bad about what he had done that he went out and hanged himself.

A Rich Young Man's Question

Read the passage from Matthew 19:16-24.

Did Jesus really mean that if you have a lot of money you can't get into heaven?

What is the real problem? (*Ans: loving money and things more than God.*)

Did Jesus mean that everyone has to sell all they own to become a Christian?

Why did Jesus say this to the rich young ruler?

The rich young ruler's problem was not really his money, but the fact that he loved it more than anything or anyone else... even God. Children do not usually have a lot of money, but wanting THINGS can be the same.

Read 1 Tim 6:10. This verse says that it is the *love* of money that is the problem, not money itself.

Read Luke 9:23-26. Jesus is telling us here that to take up the cross and follow Him, we must be willing to do whatever He says to do. Sometimes that may mean giving up possessions. Owning everything in the whole world would be worth nothing without Jesus in our life.

The widow's generous gift

Read the passage from Luke 21:1-4.

A widow is a lady whose husband has died. It is very difficult for a woman to bring up children without the support of her husband to provide money. This woman in the Bible had very little. She only gave two copper coins. These were not worth much at all. But her gift was worth more to God than the gift of a rich person. A rich person has plenty of money and might only give a small amount of that money. This lady probably had very little money for food yet she still decided to give to God.

Week 5 God is Provider

The Greatest Treasure

Having Jesus in our life is far more important than having an abundance of material possessions.

Bible references

Matthew 6:19-21 & 24 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God

Proverbs 8:11 Wisdom is better than riches.

Proverbs 16:16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold.

Bible lesson

Read the passage from Matthew 6:19-20

These verses start with a command from Jesus. He says, "Do not store up treasures on earth."

Most people do not have an enormous amount of treasure. But most of us have things that are precious to us. Perhaps we have a favourite piece of clothing or a bike or a favourite toy.

We would be very upset if we lost these things.

Ask the children to name some of the *things* (not people) that are important to them. Make a list.

Is it wrong to own these things? Of course not! The problem comes when we think that these things are the most important things in our lives. Jesus tells us that instead of hoarding treasures on earth, we are to pile up treasures in heaven.

Can we store up our possessions in heaven? No. These aren't the treasures Jesus is talking about. Treasures that we can store in heaven are the things we do to serve God. Can you think of some of the treasures we can store in heaven?

Make a list

On the board or a large sheet of paper, write a heading "Heavenly Treasures". Ask the children to give ideas such as: prayer, reading the Bible, sharing our toys, helping to feed the hungry, etc.)

Jesus wants us to store up heavenly treasures instead of earthly treasures. No matter where are treasures are, that's where our heart is going to be. We can ask ourselves, "What is most important to me? ...the things on earth that may get stolen or fall apart, or doing things to serve God.

Read Matthew 6:24

Matthew 6:24 says, 'No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.'

Too often the message we get from TV, movies, music, and some people around us is that life is all about the things we own. But Jesus tells us that life is not about what belongs to us, but about whom we belong to. We belong to Jesus, who died for our sins. When we serve him by sharing our earthly treasures with those in need, we store up real treasures in heaven.

Ask the children to read:

Matthew 6:24

Proverbs 8:11

Proverbs 16:16

Discussion

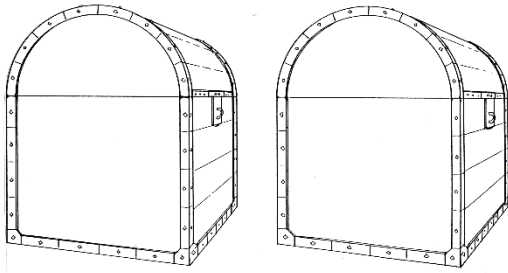
Who is in need in our community or the world?

How can we help them?

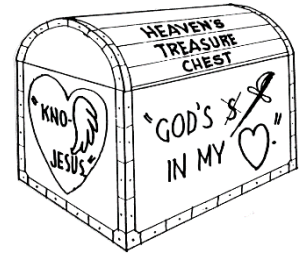
Activity

Read Matthew 6:19-21

Draw two treasure chests. In the first treasure chest, draw some different kinds of treasure that people may like to store up. In the second treasure chest, draw what might happen to this treasure.



Earthly Treasure



Puzzle

Solve the picture puzzle to find out the very best treasure to store up. Write a sentence: The best kind of treasure is and

Year 5

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 topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Countries of the world: The continents of North and South America

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 will not die but have everlasting life.

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

Values:

Faith; respect for truth; thankfulness

God is our Saviour

Week 1

The Betrayal

Bible references

Adapted from Matthew 26:17-56, Mark 14:12-52, Luke 22:7-53, John 13:1-38 and 18:1-12

Introduction:

Let's try and remember what happened the week before Easter. This was the triumphal entry, when the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem, wanting Him to be king. They did not realize that Jesus was not to be an ordinary king, but king of the whole universe and king of people's hearts and lives.

Upper Room Betrayal

The Passover

At this time the Jews celebrated Passover. This was a reminder to them of the great miracle that God did for them, bringing them out of Egypt in the time of Moses.

Jesus wanted to celebrate this very special day in the Jewish year with His disciples. The disciples asked Jesus, "Where do you want us to get the Passover meal ready?" "Go into the city," He said, "and you will see a man carrying a jug of water. Follow him. When he goes into a house, find the owner of that house. Tell him the Teacher said to ask, 'Where is the room I may use to eat the Passover with my disciples?'" He will show you a big upstairs room, ready for our use. Get everything ready there." The disciples went and did as Jesus said.

The meal took a long time. There was the roasted lamb. There were several other kinds of food and drink. Jesus talked with the disciples as they ate. "I have wanted very much to eat this Passover with you before I suffer," He said. The very next day, Jesus, the Lamb of God would shed His blood.

However, Jesus also had other things to tell his disciples during that special meal. He was very sad as He said to them, "I must tell you that one of you is going to betray me." ('Betray' means to be disloyal or unfaithful. It means to do something bad to your friend.)

The disciples stopped eating and looked at one another. They couldn't believe what they heard. Which of them would give Jesus away to his enemies? How could any of them not be loyal and faithful to the Lord? They each said to themselves, "Is it I? Could I possibly do such a thing?"

Peter leaned over and motioned to John, who was seated by the Lord Jesus. "Find out which one of us he is talking about," Peter said.

John asked, "Lord, who is it?"

"It is the one to whom I shall give the piece of bread after I have dipped it in the dish," the Lord Jesus answered.

Judas Iscariot must have been very uncomfortable. "Is it I?" he asked quietly, trying to hide his guilt feelings.

"You have said it yourself," Jesus said. And he gave Judas the bread he had dipped in the dish. But he gave bread to others too. No one heard what he said to Judas. No one noticed that Judas received the bread so no one knew.

"What you are going to do, do quickly," the Lord Jesus said, and Judas went out into the night.

The other disciples did not know where Judas was going or what he was going to do. He was the one who looked after the money so they thought that Jesus may have told him to buy something, or to give some money to the poor. But Judas went to the rulers of the Jews, the chief priests, scribes and the elders. It was not the first time he had visited them. Several days before this he had been there. He had asked them, "What will you give me if I turn Jesus over to you?"

"We will give you thirty pieces of silver," they said.

Judas promised, and now he was in front of them again. "I know where Jesus will be," Judas said. "This is the time to get him. Follow me. The one I kiss will be he."

And so the soldiers, the guards of the temple and some of the Pharisees went with Judas to look for Jesus.

The Last Supper

Meantime back in the upstairs room the Passover meal was finished. Jesus picked up some bread, held it in his hands and thanked God for it. He then broke the bread in pieces and passed it around to the disciples.

"Take and eat," he said. "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in memory of me." (1 Cor. 11:24). Then he took a cup of wine, thanked God for it and passed it to the disciples saying, "This cup is God's new Covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me."

A covenant is an agreement between two or more people. It is like a promise which two or more people make to one another. The old covenant used the blood of animal sacrifices but they never took away our sins, just covered them over (Hebrews 10:4). The cup Jesus offered them was a symbol of his blood that would be shed the next day His blood would be given for the forgiveness of sins. We now call this the 'Lord's Supper'. This is when we remember the shed blood of the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God.

After they sang a hymn together, Jesus and the disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was arrested and his disciples ran away and left him.

The Trials

Bible references:

Adapted from Matt. 26:57-27:31; Mark 14:53-15:20; Luke 22:54-23:25; John 18:13-19:16.

The High Priest (Religious leaders)

The Lord Jesus was a prisoner. His disciples had disappeared, scattered in every direction. His enemies led him into the city and took him to the leaders of the Jews. They brought in some men whom they paid to tell lies about Jesus.

“What do you know about him?” they asked.

Some said one thing and some said another. Everyone knew they were lying. At last two men, whom the Bible calls “false witnesses,” said, “This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and build it again in three days.’” (The temple Jesus was talking about was His body, which would die, and in three days come back to life again.)

“What do you have to say about that?” the high priest asked Jesus.

The Lord Jesus knew that nothing he would say would make any difference, so, he did not say anything. This made the high priest angry.

“I command you in the name of the living God that you tell us whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God,” he said.

“I am,” the Lord Jesus answered. ‘And the day will come when you see me sitting at the right hand of God.’”

This was the answer the high priest wanted. “He lies!” he screamed. “This is blasphemy.” (Blasphemy meant lying about God.) The high priest turned to the people around him. “You heard what He said.

“What do you think?” he asked.

“He is guilty,” they answered. “He deserves to die!”

Peter says he does not know Jesus

Peter had promised Jesus, “Even if I have to die with you, I will stand up for you.” It was cool and he warmed himself at a fire with the enemies of Jesus. A girl looked at Peter. “This is one of his followers,” she said, pointing to him.

“Woman, I don’t know what you are talking about,” Peter answered.

A little later someone else looked closely at Peter. “You are one of them,” he said.

“I am not!” Peter lied,

Still later another came by. “Surely you are one of them,” he said. “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?”

“I tell you, I do not know the man!” Peter answered. Just then, a rooster crowed.

And Peter remembered the words of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning you will say three times that you do not know me.”

Peter looked up just in time to see the Lord Jesus turn and look at him. Peter went away from the crowd and cried and cried and cried.

It was now early morning. Jesus stood with hands tied while His enemies hit him with their fists, slapped him and spit in his face. They led Him away from the house of the high priest to the hall of Pilate, the governor.

Jesus before Pilate (Civil leaders)

“What do you have against this man?” Pilate asked “Of what do you accuse Him?” The high priest and the other Jewish leaders were really troubled. Their laws would not let them put a man to death, so Jesus could not be crucified unless Pilate ruled that He should be punished by death. Pilate would not understand if they told him that Jesus said He was the Son of God, so they said, “He says He is the King of the Jews.”

That should upset Pilate for he was the governor of the Jews in this country. There was a King called Caesar, and if the Lord Jesus was also claiming to be a King this would cause trouble and war.

‘Are you the King of Jews?’ Pilate asked.

“Yes, I am,” Jesus answered.

The crowd of chief priests and scribes and elders yelled one thing and another against Him.

“Don’t you hear what they are saying?” Pilate asked. “Aren’t you going to answer them?”

But the Lord Jesus did not answer a word. This truly bothered Pilate. He could find nothing wrong with Jesus. He tried to think how he could set him free.

Jesus and Barabbas

Suddenly he had an idea. Every year at the time of the Passover one prisoner was set free. The Jews were given a choice as to who that prisoner should be. The worst prisoner Pilate could think of was a wicked man, Barabbas, who was sentenced to die. He had committed murder and caused a lot of trouble among the people.

“Whom do you want me to set free? Jesus or Barabbas?” Pilate asked.

Quickly the leaders moved among the crowd. The crowd was growing larger and larger as people gathered to see what all the excitement was about. There was whispering. Heads were nodding. Then the crowd shouted, “We want Barabbas! Set Barabbas free!”

Pilate could not believe what he heard. “Then what shall I do with Jesus, the one called the Messiah?” he asked. ~

Again the crowd shouted. “Crucify him! Crucify him! Let him be killed!”

The crowd was screaming now “Crucify him!”

Jesus stood there, not saying a word. He was willing to be mocked and despised, or hated, as part of his suffering for our sin. The Bible says in the book of Isaiah, “He is despised and rejected of man.” (Isaiah 53:3).

Jesus was willing to take all this hatred for us because He loved us that much. We have all done many other wrong things. Jesus took the punishment that we deserved.

The soldiers led the Lord Jesus away from the crowd. First he was whipped across His bare back. Then they brought a crown made from a thorn bush. The thorns were long and sharp. They pushed the thorny crown down on his head. Next they brought a purple robe and put it on him. They shoved a stick into His hands for a scepter, (a king's rod).

Mocking him, they knelt in front of him. "Hail, King of the Jews" they said, laughing and making fun. They spat on him and took the stick that they had given him as his scepter and hit him over the head.

Pilate took him back to the crowd. "I'm bringing him back to you to tell you I do not find him guilty," Pilate said. "Look at the man."

The crowd, stirred up by the enemies of Jesus, shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him! Take him and crucify him!"

Pilate said, "But I can find no wrong in him."

"By our law He ought to die," they said, "because He called himself the Son of God."

The Son of God? Pilate was afraid! He took the Lord Jesus away from the crowd again. He wanted to talk with him. "Where do you come from?" he asked. The Lord Jesus did not answer.

Pilate was angry. "Will you not answer me?" he asked. "Don't you know that I have the power to crucify you or to set you free?"

"You would have no power at all over me," Jesus told him, "if it were not given to you from above."

Jesus was saying that the time of his death was set by God! No one could take his life until that time came. Now the time was here. Everything was under the control of God the Father. Pilate could not allow him to be crucified if God had not permitted it. Again they went to the people. Pilate was still trying to set Jesus free.

"If you let this man go you'll no longer be a friend of Caesar, the king! If He is the King of the Jews, He's against Caesar," the crowd shouted.

Pilate was just about ready to give up. He made one last try. "Look at your King," he said, pointing to Jesus.

"Away with him! Crucify him!" they answered.

So Pilate symbolically washed his hands in a basin of water, and sent Jesus to be crucified.

Review Questions:

1. When the High Priest asked Jesus to tell them whether he was the Son of God or not, what did Jesus say? *Ans. Jesus said "I am."*
2. What did Peter do that made Jesus very sad?
3. Did Jesus stop loving Peter?
4. Why did Pilate want to set the Lord Jesus free? *Ans. He knew Jesus had done nothing wrong.*
5. It was the custom of the Jews to choose a prisoner to go free at Passover time. Whom did the crowd want?
6. How did the soldiers mock Jesus? *Ans. They crowned him with thorns and dressed him in a purple robe, gave him a stick for a scepter, and knelt in front of Him saying "Hail, King of the Jews."*
7. Did the Lord Jesus have a fair trial?

God is our Saviour

Week 2

Jesus died for us

The Crucifixion

Jesus walked out of Jerusalem carrying his cross. They had taken off the purple robe and dressed him in his own clothes. The cross was heavy. The Lord Jesus had suffered terribly from the beating and lack of sleep the night before so he walked slowly. A man called Simon was pulled from the crowd to carry the cross for the Lord Jesus while Jesus walked ahead. They moved toward a place called Golgotha, or Calvary. Two other prisoners carried their crosses. They were robbers.

Some soldiers walked in front of the crowd. One carried a sign that Pilate had written. It was to be hung at the top of Jesus' cross. "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," the sign said. The Jewish leaders did not like those words. They said, "Write, 'He said: I am the King of the Jews'." Pilate had refused to change the sign. "What I have written, I have written," he said.

When the crowd reached the hill where Jesus would be crucified, the soldiers offered him something to drink. It was some kind of wine mixed with a drug that would make it easier for him to bear the pain. The Lord Jesus would not drink it. He would take every bit of the suffering himself. The soldiers put nails through his hands and feet and hung him up on the cross to die.

It was nine o'clock in the morning. The two robbers were on either side of him. The soldiers threw a dice to see who would get his clothes. They were used to crucifixions and hearing screams and curses from those who were dying. But the man on the middle cross, Jesus, did not curse or scream. He called out, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." The Lord Jesus was praying for his enemies! What kind of man is this?" they wondered.

People came and stood watching, shaking their heads. "You!" they yelled. "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

The chief priests and the scribes joined in the mocking. "He saved others but he can't save himself. If he is the King of the Jews let him come down from the cross and we will believe him."

It was not the nails that held the Lord Jesus to the cross. He had power to come off that cross. It was his love for us that held him there. His blood was shed so that our sin could be forgiven. We were born with a sinful nature - a nature that chooses wrong - the lies, the selfishness, the hatred, the disobedience, the stealing and all the other sins we have ever done. These can be forgiven only through the blood of Christ.

It is easy to hate the sin of those who crucified and mocked the Lord Jesus. Could even their sins be forgiven? Yes! Their sin too could be forgiven (Acts 6:7).

One of the robbers joined in the mocking. He said, "Jesus, aren't you the Messiah? Then save yourself and us too!"

But the other robber said, "Aren't you afraid of God, even when you are dying? We are getting the punishment we deserve. We are guilty but this man has done nothing wrong. He is not guilty." He spoke to the Lord Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you shall be with me in Paradise." It was now twelve o'clock. Three hours had gone by since the crucifixion began. Strange things were happening. Darkness came over all the land; not just cloudy darkness but night darkness. It lasted for three hours, until three o'clock in the afternoon.

It was about that time that the Lord Jesus cried with a loud voice, "My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?" God had to abandon him while Jesus took the punishment for our sin. 1 Peter 2:24 says, "He carried our sins in his own body on the cross". If we trust the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we will never have to be separated from God. He will never leave us alone in our life on earth or in our next life after we die when we will be with Him in Heaven.

Then Jesus cried with a loud voice, "It is finished!" All that he had come to do was finished. When something is finished there is nothing left to be done. No one can add anything else to pay for sin. The Lord Jesus did it all.

Jesus spoke one last time. "Father," he said. "Into your hands I give my spirit." The separation from God was over. Jesus' spirit left his body. Jesus was dead.

The leader of the group of soldiers that crucified him looked at Jesus on the cross. "Surely this man was the Son of God," he said. He must have thought, "I am guilty of crucifying one who was not guilty."

In the temple in the city a huge curtain called a veil hung in front of the altar. Once every year the high priest had gone behind the veil with the blood of animals to offer it as a sacrifice for the sins of the people. This was the only time anyone ever went behind that curtain. But, when the Lord Jesus died that veil was torn in half from the top to the bottom! The blood of animals was no longer necessary to come to God. All could come through the blood of the Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God.

One of the rulers of the Jews went to Pilate. His name was Joseph, and the Bible says he did not vote to have Jesus put to death. It took a lot of courage for any Jew to go to Pilate at this time. "Please, may I take his body from the cross and bury it?" Joseph asked.

“Is he dead already?” Pilate questioned. It was not usual that anyone could die so soon from crucifixion! The soldiers checked. They broke the legs of the robbers so that they might die more quickly. But they did not break Jesus’ legs because he was already dead. They pierced his side with a spear and they knew he was dead. The soldiers gave Pilate the word. “Yes, Jesus is dead.” Pilate gave Joseph permission to take the body.

Up until this time Joseph had not spoken of his love for the Lord Jesus because he was afraid of the Jews. Suddenly he was brave and he didn’t care who knew. Nicodemus too had feared to speak of his love for the Lord Jesus. Together Joseph and Nicodemus removed the body from the cross. They wrapped it in linen with sweet-smelling spices, and buried the Saviour in a new tomb in Joseph’s garden.

The leaders of the Jews were certain that this was the end. Well, almost certain, that is! They went back to Pilate again.

“We remember that this deceiver said he would rise from the dead in three days,” they said. “His disciples might come to steal his body and then say he has risen. We want guards to watch the tomb for three days.”

Pilate gave permission. The tomb was sealed and the guards were stationed to make sure the body of Christ would stay in the tomb and not be stolen.

Review questions

1. Why did the Lord Jesus die? *Ans. For the sins of the world.*
2. What kinds of people were at the cross? *Ans. Rulers who hated him, friends who loved him, soldiers and others who didn’t care.*
3. What did they say to mock him while he hung on the cross? *Ans. If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross and we will believe.” “He said he trusted in God so let God save Him now.”*
4. What held the Lord Jesus to the cross? *Ans. His love.*
5. What did Jesus ask God to do for his enemies? *Ans. He prayed, “Father forgive them for they know not what they do.”*
6. Name some of the strange things that happened when he died. *Ans. Darkness at midday; the temple curtain was torn in two.*
7. Why did Jesus cry “My God! My God! Why have you forsaken me?” *Ans. He was separated from God because of our sin.*
8. Who took the body of the Lord Jesus off the cross and laid it in a tomb? *Ans. Joseph and Nicodemus.*

God is our Saviour

Week 3

Jesus is alive!

The Resurrection

Adapted from Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 23:56-24:12; 36-48; John 20:1-21.

It seemed that guarding a dead man's grave would be an easy job for the soldiers. Surely there was no work involved in that. They were just to see that the tomb was not disturbed. But they could not do it, for God himself was in charge of that grave. Those strong soldiers were absolutely powerless to keep the grave undisturbed. Their guarding time was up. An angel took over!

When the soldier saw the angel they were so afraid they became like dead men. When they were able to get away from the tomb they rushed back into the city to the Jewish leaders. The soldiers told what had happened.

"Don't tell that to anyone," the Jewish leaders warned. They brought out a large amount of money.

"We'll give you this," they said, "if you do not tell what you know. Say that you fell asleep and his disciples came and took his body away." The promise of a lot of money made it very easy for them to lie.

When the Lord Jesus was buried, some women who were special friends Jesus wanted to put sweet-smelling spices on his body just as Nicodemus had done, but they came too late. All they could do was watch Joseph, Nicodemus and others roll the big stone to close the opening of the grave then go home.

The next day was the Sabbath, (the day of rest for the Jews), so they could not go to the tomb on that day. But early Sunday morning they were on their way. It was still dark when they left their homes. They were very sad.

"How can we get to the body?" one asked. "Who will roll the stone away from the door?" That was a big problem, but still they went on their way. When they came in sight of the tomb they saw it was open! Mary Magdalene hurried to look inside. She called out, "He's gone! He's not there! His body is gone!" She was so upset she didn't wait to discuss it with the other women. Whatever happened? Would Peter and John know anything about it? She hurried back into the city to find them, calling out, "They have taken the Lord out of the grave and we don't know where they laid him." Peter and John immediately started for the grave and Mary Magdalene followed. Had she waited with the other women she would have learned something else. After she had gone they saw an angel. "Don't be afraid," the angel said to the women. "I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen. He said that would happen. Come and see the place where he was lying."

The women came closer to the tomb and they saw that truly he was not there, although the cloths that had been wrapped around Jesus body were lying in the tomb.

The angel told the women, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered Jesus words; truly He had told them this would happen. The angel said, "Go tell his disciples and Peter that He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." The women ran to spread the good news! It was such wonderful news that they were almost afraid to believe it! Meantime Peter and John were running to the tomb. Mary Magdalene was coming more slowly behind them. John arrived first and stopped at the entrance to look in. Peter pushed by him into the tomb. John followed. There they saw the linen clothes in which Joseph and Nicodemus had wrapped the body of Jesus. They were exactly in the shape of the body but they were empty. The cloth that had been over his face was separate from the others. In some way the body had moved out of the linen wrappings without moving them! They returned to their home, their minds filled with wonder.

Mary Magdalene moved up to the opening and looked inside. She saw two angels! "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her. "They've taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have laid him" she answered. As she turned around she saw someone behind her. "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?" he asked her.

Mary thought it was the gardener. "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you laid him and I will take him away," she said.

The man standing there said, "Mary!" Immediately Mary knew it was Jesus.

"My Master!" she cried.

Mary Magdalene was the first person to see the Lord Jesus after he had risen from the dead.

"Go to my brothers, my followers, and tell them I am going to my Father," the Lord Jesus told her.

Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples she had seen the risen Lord Jesus and what he said to her. The other women who had heard the message of the angel had also told their stories. The disciples did not believe the women, but they knew they were speaking the truth.

That evening the disciples were in a room behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Suddenly Jesus was there! Locked doors couldn't keep him out! "Peace be to you!" He said.

At first they were terribly frightened. They thought they were seeing a spirit! "Why are you troubled?" he asked them. "Look at my hands and my feet," and He showed them the wounds from the nails in his hands and feet. "It is me. Touch me and see. A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

Now the disciples knew what the women said was true. They were glad and filled with joy. They were happier than they had ever been before!

“Do you have anything to eat?” He asked. They gave him a piece of boiled fish and watched while he ate it. “While I was still with you,” He said, “I told you everything written about me in the Old Testament must come true.” He helped them to understand how the Old Testament spoke about him.

“This is what is written: the promised Saviour will suffer and rise from the dead the third day. Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be preached to all nations. You are witnesses of these things. As the Father sent me, so send I you.”

Review Questions

1. What lie did the soldiers tell about what took place at the tomb? *Ans. They said they fell asleep and the disciples came and stole the body of Jesus out of the tomb.*
2. Why did they tell that lie? *Ans. Because the rulers of the Jews promised them a lot of money if they would say that.*
3. What did the women plan to do at Jesus' grave? *Ans. Put spices on his body.*
4. What did they find there? *Ans. The stone rolled away; some saw an angel.*
5. What did the angel tell them? *Ans. "He is not here: for he is risen." "Go quickly and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead."*
6. Who was the first person to see the Lord Jesus after he had risen from the dead? *Ans. Mary Magdalene.*
7. What did Peter and John see when they went to the tomb? *Ans. The grave clothes lying in place with the body gone.*
8. Where did the Lord Jesus meet with the disciples? *Ans. He came into a room where the disciples were staying behind locked doors*
9. What did he do to prove that he was real? *Ans. Showed them the wounds in his hands and feet. Told them to touch him. Ate some fish.*

Year 5

God is Pure and Holy (4 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God's laws are just and fair
- People are separated from God because of sin
- Jesus broke down the barrier of sin
- We feel guilty when we sin
- If we confess our sins God will forgive us
- Sin has consequences

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Healthy choices: Fitness & food choices

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

We keep our lives pure before God by right living and treating our bodies with respect.

Values:

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

God is Pure and Holy

Week 1

God's laws

Jesus paid the price for our sin.

Bible references

Exodus 20 The Ten Commandments

Romans 3:19-26 People could not be made right with God by following the law, (the Ten Commandments), so God made another way.

John 3:16 God loved the world so much that He sent His Son.

Preparation: Have the Ten Commandments written on a large sheet of paper.

Introduction

Ask if anyone can list all of the Ten Commandments. (*Have a prize ready for anyone who can*). Most likely no one will receive the prize for knowing all of the commandments. For the people of the Old Testament it was difficult to remember all the laws, and certainly more difficult to obey them.

Read through the Ten Commandments using your prepared sheet of paper. Or ask the children to read them in their Bibles. Explain that people of the Old Testament had to please God by keeping the 'law' or the commandments.

Discussion

a) The fairness of God

What would we expect a fair person to be like?

Which of these would be examples of fairness?

- Dad says he will pay you \$2 for gardening, but he only gives you 50c.
- The teacher gives no homework because you have worked during your lunch break.
- Dad says that you will not be given any pocket money if you don't do any work, but at the end of the week you persuade him to give you the full amount, even though you have done no work.

Being *fair*, or *just*, involves making a set of rules, and then sticking to them.

b) The commandments

God had made fair and just rules for His people. Because God is a perfect and just father, He has to punish disobedience, just as any good father disciplines his children. Without consequences there would be no justice. God decided that the punishment for rejecting Him would be separation. This decision caused God much sadness.

Because God is just and fair, He could not remove the punishment. However He decided on another way whereby His own Son would receive the punishment for the

people's disobedience. Those who accepted the Son would be freed from the punishment.

Read Romans 3:19-26

Could anyone be made right with God by following the law? (verses 19-20)

How can people be made right with God now? (verses 21-26)

Story: The classroom

There was once a teacher called Mr. Tom who had a class of very unruly students. While his back was turned one student would take something from another.

"Hey, bring back my coloured pencils!" someone would shout.

"They're mine!" would be the reply. Then a fight would break out. Day after day this sort of thing went on. Something had to be done!

One day while Mr. Tom was having his breakfast, he had a brilliant idea. 'Today is going to be different,' he thought to himself. As he drove to school he felt more and more convinced that he had the answer to his problem.

At 8.30 the bell rang as usual. Mr. Tom walked into the class. The students were again in an uproar. Mr Tom took a deep breath and stood before the class.

"Class," he shouted, "What we need is a set of rules."

The class stopped their noise immediately. Now all ears were listening for what Mr. Tom would say next.

"For the sake of us all, we must introduce some class rules, and I would like you to suggest them."

"No stealing," said one.

Mr. Tom wrote 'No stealing' on a big piece of white paper.

"No hitting," said another.

"No name calling," said another.

The list went on.

Finally Mr. Tom said, "I would like to add just one more rule." Not one rule is to be broken. If anyone does break a rule, he or she shall be punished. What should the punishment be?" asked Mr. Tom.

"Detention in the head teacher's office every lunch time and recess time for a week!" cried one. Everyone agreed.

Mr. Tom drove home happily that afternoon. 'I think I have solved my problem' he thought to himself.

When Mr. Tom walked into the classroom at 8.30 o'clock the next morning, things were very different. There was no shouting, screaming or fighting. Everyone worked peacefully. Then later that morning it happened.

"He's stolen my homework and put his own name on it!"

So the argument began. Mr. Tom took a look at the homework in question. Sure enough, the handwriting was that of another student.

"Is this really your homework Ben?" Mr. Tom asked the student.

"No," confessed the guilty student.

To the realisation of everyone, the golden rule had been broken. Ben must now take the punishment. The lunch bell rang.

"Please come with me, Ben," demanded Mr. Tom. Ben stepped forward.

"No, no!" came a voice. It was Ben's best friend. "I will take the place of Ben. I will take the punishment for him."

Ben returned to his place and his friend followed Mr. Tom to the head teacher's office.

Discussion

1. What was happening in Mr. Tom's classroom?
2. How did Mr. Tom think he could improve things?
3. Were the students cooperative after the rules had been made?
4. What caused things to go wrong once again?
5. Why do you think William's best friend wanted to take the punishment for William?
6. In the story, rules had to be made for good classroom behaviour. God too, had to make rules for the people He had made. What are some of them?
7. What is the name the Bible gives for breaking God's rules?
8. Who, in real life, deserves the punishment?
9. Who, in real life, took the punishment?
10. What must we do if we want to be forgiven for our sin?

Memory verse: John 3:16

God is Pure and Holy

Week 2

Jesus broke down the barrier of sin

Bible references

Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23 When people sin they are separated from God. Sin makes a barrier between people and God.

Colossians 1:20 Christ's death on the cross broke the barrier of sin.

Ephesians 2:14 He is our peace...He has broken down the wall.

Romans 5:1; 1 John 1:9 If we ask Jesus to forgive us, and if we have faith in God, we can have peace with God.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, and my soul shall be joyful in my God: for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, and covered me with the robe of righteousness.

Lesson focus: The death of Jesus covers our lives and forgives us for our sin. This is called grace.



Preparation

You will need some bean bags and a bucket/waste paper basket or some cotton wool balls and a bowl.

Introduction

Ask a few students to come out and play the target game. They have to see if they can reach the target with the bean bag / cotton wool balls. Make the challenge unrealistic so that it is impossible to get the bean bag/cotton wool balls into the container.

Bible lesson

God is pure and holy and his original plan was that all people should be pure and holy as well. Only then could they walk and talk with Him as Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden. But when Adam and Eve sinned they could no longer walk and talk with God because God was holy, without sin, and they were not. From then on all people from then on had sin in their lives. No matter how hard we try to be perfect we can never be. It's like trying to get that bean bag in the bucket. It's just too hard to be always perfect.

Because people could no longer walk and talk with God, it was like a huge brick wall or a barrier between God and people. God made a plan. In the Old Testament times the people were instructed to ask God to forgive their sins by making animal sacrifices to God. But God planned for a better way. When the time in history was right, He sent Jesus to die for our sins. He became the sacrifice for us. By dying for us He broke down the wall between people and God.

Ask the students to read the following from their Bibles:

Romans 3:23; 5:8; 6:23 When people sin they are separated from God. Sin makes a barrier between people and God.

Colossians 1:20 Christ's death on the cross broke the barrier of sin.

Ephesians 2:14 He is our peace...He has broken down the wall.

Romans 5:1; 1 John 1:9 If we ask Jesus to forgive us, and if we have faith in God, we can have peace with God.

Ask students about a time when they have done something wrong at home and been punished. What happens when we get in trouble? What do parents do for consequences?

Explain that the Bible tells us we have all done bad things. The only person who was ever born perfect was Jesus. There is no way we can pay the consequence for our sins because it is just too much! But Jesus has paid the price already! Jesus made it so that we don't have to pay for our own sins. He took our punishment all on himself.



So God has given us His amazing grace to cover our sins and mistakes. Our job is to accept that and appreciate what He gives us. Because God does not force Himself on anyone, it is our job to say 'yes' to Jesus and ask Him to forgive us for all we have done wrong in our lives.

By doing this we are accepting God's grace. We are saying thank you to God for overlooking our sin. Instead of seeing our sin, God sees a clean heart, made clean by Jesus who died on the cross for us. When God looks at us He sees us clothed with special clothes called a 'robe of righteousness'.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, and my soul shall be joyful in my God: for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, and covered me with the robe of righteousness.

God is Pure and Holy

Week 3

Feeling guilty when we do wrong

Bible references

2 Samuel chapters 11 & 12

Psalm 32:1-5 Confession and forgiveness

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins God will forgive us.

Psalm 51:6-12

Bible lesson: David's sin

David was a good king and made sure his people were treated right and fairly. Since David would not get to build the temple for God himself, he began to gather materials for the time when his son would build it. David was famous with the people because of the victories God gave him over their enemies. These wars were not just fought for glory, though. God was using his people to punish those who had turned away from him to worship idols. Finally the nations nearby were conquered; Israel included all the land God had promised to Abraham. During one of the wars, however, David stayed behind in Jerusalem when his soldiers went off to fight. It was at this time that David fell into grievous sin, which would haunt him for the rest of his life.

As David walked on the roof of his house one evening, he saw a beautiful woman taking a bath. Someone told him she was Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, a Hittite soldier who was away fighting with David's army. David should have put Bathsheba out of his mind when he heard she was married, but he didn't. He wanted her for his wife, even though he was Uriah's wife. David brought Bathsheba to the palace to stay with him. Sometime later Bathsheba sent David word she was going to have his baby.

David, the king over all Israel, had committed adultery with one of his soldiers' wives and now there was going to be a child! Desperately he tried to think of a way to cover his sin. Finally David had a plan; he would bring Uriah home from the battlefield and let him visit his wife. Then everyone would think he was the baby's father.

But David's plan didn't work. Uriah came back to Jerusalem, but he wouldn't go down to his house, not even after David got him drunk. He slept with the king's servants instead. He wouldn't let himself enjoy being home with his wife while the other soldiers were having a hard time on the battlefield.

What could David do now? Soon Uriah would hear Bathsheba was going to have a baby, a baby that was not his. He must never know that David was its father!

David did a terrible thing. He wrote to Joab, the leader of his army, commanding him, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retreat from him, that he may be struck down and die." Then he had Uriah take the letter back with him.

Was David actually trying to get Uriah killed? Yes, he was! And that was just what happened. When David heard Uriah was dead, he told Joab not to feel guilty. "The sword devours one as well as another." David said, just as if Uriah's death had been an ordinary casualty of war.

After about a year, God sent Nathan the prophet to talk with David. Nathan had been a wise judge over his people. He told David a parable to help him understand the sin he had committed. In the parable there was a rich man with many sheep and a poor man with only one little lamb. This little lamb was so special to the poor man that he treated it like his own child.

This rich man did an awful thing. One day he killed the poor man's little lamb to feed a traveller who came by to visit. When David heard what the rich man had done, his anger was hot. "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall die!" he declared indignantly, not knowing he was talking about himself!

"You are the man," Nathan told the king. Then he delivered God's message. "I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been too little, I also would have given you much more," God said. Yet David had broken God's law and had done evil in His sight. Not only had he killed Uriah with the sword, he had taken his wife for himself.

As punishment Nathan said David's family would have trouble for the rest of his life. "I have sinned against the Lord," David confessed and God saw he has repented. But sad consequences would still follow.

Discussion

What were the two sins David committed?

What story did Nathan tell David?

What wicked thing did the rich man in this story do?

What was the real meaning of the story?

Ask the students to read Psalm 32: 1-5

Explain that David wrote many songs. We don't know the tunes, but the words of the songs are recorded in the book of Psalms. In this Psalm, David tells us how he felt when he sinned. He could not stop crying. He felt worn out, weak and sad.

God has given us a conscience: a little voice inside us that tells us what is right and what is wrong. When we don't listen to that voice and do the wrong thing, we feel guilty because we have displeased God.

What can we do about this and how can we feel better?

Read 1 John 1:9

What is the meaning of 'confess'?

What should our heart attitude be when we confess our sins to God?

What if we have sinned against people? What action must we take if we really want God to forgive us? (We need to confess to them as well as God and ask them for their forgiveness.)

God is Pure and Holy

Week 4

Confession

Revision from last lesson:

Telling God that we have done wrong is called 'confession'. We are asking God to forgive us and give us back a clean and happy heart.

Bible lesson

Let's look at David's confession Psalm 51:6-12

What is David asking God to do in verses 7-12?

- Remove my sin
- Wash me
- Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness
- Close your eyes to my sins and wipe out all my evil
- Create in me a pure heart
- Put a new loyal spirit in me
- Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation
- Make me willing to obey you.

What is David asking God not to do in verse 11?

- Do not send me away from your presence
- Do not take your Holy Spirit away from me.

The consequences of David's sin

Although he was forgiven, David had serious consequences to deal with. First, the baby that David had with Bathsheba died. Also, David's many children always fought. This is especially hard on David because he loved all his children very much.

David had many sons; and most of his sons had grown up wild and wicked, because David had not watched over them, and had not taught them in their youth to love God and do God's will. He had been too busy as a king to do his duty as a father.

The oldest of David's sons was Absalom. Absalom was said to be the most beautiful young man in all the land. He had long locks of hair, of which he was very proud, because all the people admired them. Absalom became very angry with Amnon,

another of David's sons, because Amnon had done wrong to Absalom's sister, named Tamar.

But Absalom hid his anger against Amnon, and one day invited Amnon with all the king's sons to a feast at his house in the country. They all went to the feast; and while they were all at the table Absalom's servants, by his orders, rushed in and killed Amnon.

David was sad and greatly displeased with Absalom, though he loved him more than any other of his sons. Absalom went away from his father's court to that of his grandfather. There Absalom stayed for three years; and all the time David longed to see him, for he felt that he had now lost both sons, Absalom as well as Amnon. And after three years David allowed Absalom to come back to Jerusalem; but for a time David would not meet with him, because he had caused his brother's death. At last David's love was so strong that he could no longer refuse to see his son. He sent for Absalom, and kissed him, and took him back to his old place among the king's sons in the palace.

But Absalom's heart was wicked, and ungrateful, and cruel. He formed a plan to take the throne and the kingdom away from his father, and to make himself King in David's place. He began by living as if he were already a king, with a royal chariot, and horses, and fifty men to run before him. Then too, he would rise early in the morning, and stand at the gate of the king's palace, and meet those who came to the king for any cause. He would speak to each man, to try and win them to his side and make them wish that Absalom was king instead of David.

After four years Absalom thought that he was strong enough to seize the kingdom. He said to David, "Let me go to the city of Hebron, and there worship the Lord, and keep a promise which I made to Him."

David was pleased at this, for he thought that Absalom really meant to serve the Lord. So Absalom went to Hebron, and with him went a great company of his friends. A few of these knew of Absalom's plans, but most of them knew nothing. At Hebron, Absalom was joined by a very wise man, named Ahithophel, who was one of David's chief advisers, and in whom David trusted fully.

Suddenly the word was sent through all the land by swift runners, "Absalom has been made king at Hebron!" Those who were in the secret helped to lead others, and soon it seemed as though all the people were on Absalom's side and ready to receive him as king in place of David.

The news came to David in the palace, that Absalom had made himself king, that many of the rulers were with him, and that the people in their hearts really desired Absalom. David did not know whom he could trust, and he prepared to escape before it would be too late. He took with him a few of his servants who chose to remain by his side, and his wives, and especially his wife Bathsheba, and her son, the little Solomon.

The land on the east of Jordan, where David found a refuge, was called Gilead, a word which means "high," because it is higher than the land opposite on the west of Jordan. There, in the city of Mahanaim, the rulers and the people were friendly to David. They brought food of all kinds and drink for David and those who were with him.

And at this place David's friends gathered from all the tribes of Israel, until around him was an army. It was not as large as the army of Absalom, but in it were many brave old warriors who had fought under David in other years. David divided his army into three parts, and placed over the three parts Joab, his brother Abishai, and Ittai, who had followed him so faithfully.

David said to the chiefs of his army and to his men, "I will go out with you into the battle."

But the men said to David, "No, you must not go with us; for if half of us should lose our lives, no one will care; but you are worth ten thousand of us, and your life is too precious. You must stay here in the city, and be ready to help us if we need help."

So the king stood by the gate of Mahanaim while his men marched out by hundreds and by thousands. And as they went past the king the men heard him say to the three chiefs, Joab, and Abishai, and Ittai, "For my sake, deal gently with the young man, Absalom. Do not kill him."

Even to the last David loved the son who had done to him such great wrong, and David would have them spare his life.

A great battle was fought on that day at a place called "The Wood of Ephraim." Absalom himself went into the battle, riding upon a mule, as was the custom of kings.

David's soldiers won a great victory, and killed thousands of Absalom's men. The armies were scattered in the woods. When Absalom saw that his cause was hopeless he rode away, hoping to escape. But as he was riding under the branches of an oak-tree, his head, with its great mass of long hair, was caught in the boughs of the tree. He struggled to free himself, but could not. His mule ran away, and Absalom was left hanging in the air by his head.

One of David's soldiers saw him, and said to Joab, the captain, "I saw Absalom hanging in a tree."

"Why did you not kill him?" asked Joab. "If you had killed him I would have given you ten pieces of silver and a girdle."

"If you should offer me a thousand pieces of silver," answered the soldier, "I would not touch the king's son; for I heard the king charge all the generals and the men, 'Let no one harm the young man Absalom.'"

"I cannot stay to talk with you," said Joab; and with three darts in his hand he hastened to the place where Absalom was hanging. He thrust Absalom's heart through with the darts, and after that his followers, finding that Absalom was still living, pierced his body until they were sure that he was dead. Then they took down his body, and threw it into a deep hole in the forest, and heaped a great pile of stones upon it.

A messenger was sent to King David. "I have news for my lord the king!" cried the messenger. "This day the Lord has given you victory over your enemies!"

And David asked, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?"

Then the messenger gave David the news of Absalom's death. The king was deeply moved. His sorrow over Absalom made him forget the victory that had been won. Slowly he walked up the steps to the room in the tower over the gate, and as he walked he said, "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! I wish before God that I had died for you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

The word soon went forth that the king, instead of rejoicing over the victory, was weeping over his son. Everyone felt sorry for the king, who sat in the room over the gate, with his face covered, and crying out, "O Absalom, my son! my son, my son Absalom!"

Joab, the captain, went to David. "Why are you not rejoicing over our victory? It looks as if you love your enemies and not your friends. If Absalom had lived the rest of us would have died. Come now, go and speak to your people. Show them that you are happy to come back to your palace."

David rose up, and washed away his tears, and put on his robes, and took his seat again as a king. David reigned as king for 40 years until he was too old to rule the people. Then his son Solomon became king.

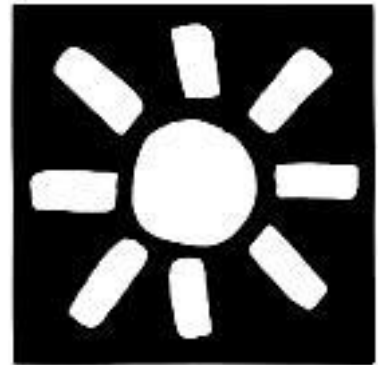
Discussion

Discuss how sins that are seemingly small, like disobedience to parents, can grow into bigger sins unless there is a change of heart, confession and repentance.

What was Absalom's sin as a boy? (Disobedience towards his father, ungratefulness)
How did this sin grow into something bigger as a young man? (He killed his brother.)
How did this sin grow into an even bigger sin later in life? (He tried to take the kingship away from his father.)

Year 5

God is Creator (5 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- The history of the world starts from the Creation, (Genesis 1-3).
- The Fall had a huge impact on the original creation and is responsible for sickness, suffering and death.
- The Bible consists of true historical accounts, poetry, prophecy and instruction. The books of Genesis through to Esther are books of Old Testament history and therefore should be accepted as truth.
- We can calculate the age of the earth by adding up the years stated in the genealogies.
- A historical background to the nation of Israel, beginning with Adam, is an important foundation to understanding the whole Bible and God's purposes for the whole world.
- God chose Israel to have a very special purpose in the history of the world. He taught Israel to love and serve Him and punished them when they went astray.
- Old Testament Jews looked forward to the coming of Jesus and were saved through faith.
- Jesus was born into the nation of Israel.
- Now all people can be saved by believing in Jesus.
- Non-Jews are called gentiles.
- Gentile believers are the adopted children of the family of God.

Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Living things, animal classification

Link between "God is Creator" and the topics:

God created plants and animals according to their own kind. A 'kind' is a family of living things with similarities. Each 'kind' was able to produce many different varieties of that animal, e.g., all the dogs in the world came from one wolf kind. Living things of one kind do not change into animals of another kind. Humans do not belong to any animal kind. They are God's special creation, made to be friends with God. Animals do not have this ability.

God is Creator

Week 1

After their own kind

Reference: Adam and the animals—Day 6 by Russell Grigg, Published in “Creation” magazine 29(1):40–43, 2006

Bible Lesson:

Genesis 1:24-31

‘Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind”; and it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food”; and it was so. And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:20-22

‘And the man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

Genesis 3:20

‘Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living’.

Discussion question:

On which of the days of creation did God make man and the land animals? (Day 6)
Why did God make animals?

God made animals of special use to us, like cows, sheep and horses. He made small animals like squirrels and spiders, rabbits and mice, frogs and lizards. He made beasts, like apes and elephants, and lots more. On this day, God also made all the

different kinds of dinosaurs. All appeared immediately at God's command, and all lived peacefully together. What a sight it must have been!

Discussion question:

How do we know God made the dinosaurs when the Bible does not mention 'dinosaurs'?

The Bible does not mention giraffes, elephants or kangaroos either, yet we know God made these land animals on Day 6. We know God made dinosaurs on Day 6 because dinosaurs are land animals too.

Discussion question:

Re-read Genesis 1:24

How do we know from this verse that these animals did not struggle and evolve over millions of years?

The Bible tells us that God made each animal 'after its kind'. This means that God gave each animal the power to make baby animals just like itself. But one kind could not change into a different kind, either then or now. Rabbits have baby rabbits, not baby kangaroos! And the same is true for every other animal. When dinosaurs laid their eggs, baby dinosaurs hatched out, not baby birds! Today there are thought to be about 8,000 different kinds of animals on our planet. Noah was asked to take two of every kind of animal into the ark, so all the *kinds* of animals were saved. He did not need to take all the different varieties of each animal. For example, he just took two dogs. These dogs later produced all the different kinds of dogs we see today. The ark was big enough to hold all the different kinds of animals.

The first man: Adam

The earth was now ready to be the home for God's greatest creation, the first human beings—Adam and Eve. But before this, God, who is three persons in one, (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), said this:

Discussion question:

Re-read Genesis 1:26

Who could He have been talking to when He said, 'Let us make man in our image.'? Not to the angels, as we are not made in their image. And not to any of the animals, like the apes, because we are not made in their image, either.

It must have been a conversation among the three Persons of the Trinity: Our Heavenly Father, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Discussion question:

Why did God say this?

Possibly to show how special man is, and that he is absolutely different from all the animals, because in him there is something of the nature of God.

People are special

We are like God in many ways, and unlike the animals in many ways.

- ‘God is spirit’ (John 4:24), so, unlike the animals, you have an eternal, immortal spirit. You can be filled with God’s Holy Spirit. And you can pray to God directly.
- ‘God is love’ (1 John 4:8), so you can love and worship God, love other people, and know His love for you. Animals cannot do this.
- ‘God is good’ (Psalm 34:8; 1 Peter 2:3). God is holy and perfect—this means He never does anything that is wrong—and He commands us to be holy and perfect too (Leviticus 11:44–45; Matthew 5:48). Unlike the animals, people have a conscience which tells us what is right and what is wrong.

Different from the animals

We are different from the animals in many other ways, too.

- We can talk with other people (as well as with God). Animals can send signals to each other, like warnings, anger or friendship by the sounds they make, by the way they stand or move, by facial expressions, and by odour. However, animals can’t speak (or write!) a true language.
- We can choose what we want to do. Animals do things by instinct (Jude v. 10).
- We can comfort others in their sorrow and laugh with others in their joy. One animal may help another, but they do not run first-aid clinics or hospitals.
- We can cook our meals, using fire (or electricity). Animals are scared of fire.
- We can cultivate the fields, and plant and reap crops.
- We can invent complex things like mathematics, computer games and aircraft; make musical instruments, paintings, and clocks to measure time. Animals may make nests or burrows, but this is the limit of their creativity.

God knew that the time would come when God the Son would become a man and live on the earth in the person of Jesus Christ. He gave the first man, Adam, the sort of body in which the Lord Jesus Christ would one day appear.

The first woman: Eve

To make the first woman, God did something very special. He caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. Then, with great wisdom and skill, He took one of Adam’s ribs from which He built the lovely lady who was to be Adam’s helper and wife. When God gave her to Adam, it was love at first sight! Adam named her ‘Eve’, which means ‘life’, because she would become the mother of the whole human race. Everybody who has ever lived since then, has descended from her.

God knew what He was doing in removing Adam’s rib—this is the only bone in our body that will grow back if it is removed. And their children were not affected—so men and women today have the same number of ribs.

God blessed Adam and Eve and told them to have many children and fill the earth. So it was God who designed marriage of a man to a woman, and the family unit, way back in Genesis.

God also told Adam and Eve to look after the earth. God wanted people, who had been made in His image, to care for the earth and everything in it on His behalf.

Adam and Eve lived in a lovely garden in a place called Eden. And what did they eat? God told Adam they were free to eat from any tree in the garden, except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This supply would never run out, as God had programmed the plants and trees (when He made them on the third day of Creation Week) to keep on reproducing through their seeds.

The animals, too, were to obtain their food from 'every green plant'. So God said in the beginning that neither man nor animals should eat meat. It was only after the Flood, in Noah's time, that God told man he could eat meat (Genesis 9:3).

Everything on Day 6 was beautiful and perfect for God's purpose. Nothing God had made was bad or evil. There was no struggle for existence, no disease, no suffering, no sin, and, above all, no death of people or animals!

During Creation Week, God looked at what He had made and called it 'good' six times. Now, on the sixth day, with everything finished, God looked again and joyfully said, 'Very good!'

God is Creator

Week 2

A world with no sickness or suffering

What was the world like before Adam and Eve sinned?

Bible references

Genesis 1:31; Genesis 2:15 and Genesis chapter 3.

Isaiah 65:17

2 Peter 3:13

Revelation 2:14

1 Corinthians 15:22

Romans 5:12 Sin entered the world through one man, Adam.

Bible lesson

When God made Adam He put him in charge of everything He created. When Adam sinned it affected the whole creation. Things that God created 'very good' became corrupted. Plants developed prickles and thorns. Some fruits even became poisonous.

In the Garden of Eden there were lots of trees with good fruit to eat, but after the Fall, Adam and Eve had to leave the garden and work very hard to grow food. Some animals began to pose a threat to people and other animals. There were still a lot of good things about creation, but Adam's sin meant that it was no longer perfect like it was when God created.

Read Genesis 1:31; Genesis 2:15 and Genesis chapter 3.

What about creatures that sting and bite? Would they have done this before the Fall?

We know that no insects would have harmed humans before the Fall. Some that are pests today have other good functions in the natural world – for example, helping to break down dead plant matter, and pollinating plants.

What about things that look as if they are designed to hurt, like sharks, jellyfish and lions?

It is important to realize that such things can have more than one use. Teeth that are used for killing and eating meat could have once been used for eating plants. The piranha, (a viscous South American carnivorous fish), has a nearly-identical cousin, the pacu. The pacu is a vegetarian and uses its sharp teeth for chomping on fruit that falls from the trees into the water.

What about natural disasters like forest fires, tsunamis and cyclones?

The pre-Fall world would not have had natural disasters that hurt people. Sin affects the whole world causing natural disasters such as cyclones, tsunamis and earthquakes.

Why do people get sick and die?

Before the Fall there would have been no sickness, and no need for doctors or hospitals. This is because God created the human body 'very good' and designed it to live forever. But after the Fall, the human body was no longer perfect. All humans would eventually die. The first people in history lived for a long time because they were closer in time to God's perfect creation. For example, Noah lived for 950 years. But as the human race went on, people started living shorter lives.

What will heaven be like?

The good news is that because of Jesus, those who trust in Him can look forward to a future without prickles, bites, stings and natural disasters. There will also be no sickness or death. When God remakes the world without sin, it also means that the things sin caused will also be gone for good! God promises to give everyone who believes in Jesus a new body that will never get sick, grow old or die, so we can live forever with Him on the recreated earth.

Read Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 2:14; 1 Corinthians 15:22

Acknowledgement: Creation Magazine Vol. 37 no. 4, 2015

God is Creator

Week 3

The Bible is history

Preparation

The students will need to have a Bible each, or one to share. If Bibles are not available, make a list of all the books of the Bible to show the students. Also prepare a list of the divisions of the Bible on a chart large enough for all to see. (The divisions of the Bible are listed in this lesson.)

Introduction

Where did the Bible come from?

What we today call 'The Bible' is actually a collection of 66 books, written by about 40 different authors from all walks of life (kings, fishermen, a tax collector, tent maker, etc.) over a period of 1,600 years.

Each book came from a recognized speaker of God (normally a prophet or apostle, or someone under their supervision). 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that the Bible is 'God-breathed'.

This means that God the Holy Spirit guided the writers so that all of the very words they recorded on the original scrolls were without error (2 Peter 1:21). The men who wrote the books listed in the 'Old Testament' (OT) wrote mainly in the Hebrew language (a few parts were written in Aramaic). The writers of the 'New Testament' (NT) books (written after Jesus returned to Heaven) wrote mainly in the common language of their time—Greek.

Since the Bible is the complete Word of God, who cannot lie, we can trust it to tell us the truth about the things we need to know. Because it is the Word of the Creator, we accept it as our final authority in every area it speaks about.

Some words we need to know the meaning of:

Bible

Four hundred years after Christ returned to Heaven, people began to use the Greek word biblia (meaning 'books') to describe the collection of the sacred writings. Our word 'Bible' comes from biblia.

Word of God

The Bible claims to be the 'Word of God' over 3,000 times (John 10:35; Hebrews 4:12). 'Word of God' and 'Scripture' mean the same.

Scripture

This word was used by the New Testament authors to refer to the sacred books of the Old Testament.

Prophet

A prophet was a special spokesman for God—he spoke, by God's power, the actual words God gave him.

Apostle

An apostle, as used in the Bible, was a man who had seen Christ after His Resurrection (Acts 1:21–22), and who was called by Jesus to be His ‘messenger’.

Divisions of the Bible

Ask the students to open their Bible to the index and they can refer to this as you explain how the Bible is divided up.

Old Testament

The Old Testament has 39 books. Our Bible divides the OT into four main groups:

Creation and the Law: These books tell us the history of the universe from the very beginning. They also tell about God’s working through the nation of Israel, and the laws given for Israel to follow.

The books are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

History of Israel: These 12 books continue the history of Israel, cover 1,000 years, and show the results of disobedience or obedience to God.

The twelve books are: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Poetry: These 5 books express worship toward God, give advice, and address some deep issues.

The books are: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Prophets: These 17 books proclaim God’s blessings and judgments, and tell about future events. They are divided into Major and Minor prophets depending on the length of the book.

The books are: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

New Testament

The 27 books of the New Testament are arranged into four divisions:

The Gospels: These four books record the time Jesus spent on Earth, His death, and Resurrection.

The books are: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Acts

The book of Acts records the beginning of the church, and the spread of Christianity to the time of the Apostle Paul.

The Letters: These 21 letters from apostles were addressed to churches in such places as Rome, Galatia, Ephesus and Colosse, or to individuals, or to Christians in general. They teach about Christianity and how to live the Christian life.

These books are:

Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude

The book of Revelation: This book was written to encourage Christians suffering persecution. It also reveals what will happen in the future, when new heavens and a new Earth will be created for those who have received the free gift of eternal life.

Acknowledgement: <http://creation.com/how-did-we-get-the-bible>

Discussion

Which divisions of the Bible, record what has actually happened in past history?

Ans: Creation and the Law; History of Israel, the Gospels and Acts

Some people think that what is true history really is a made-up story with a different meaning. The only time stories like this occur in the Bible are in the Gospels, where Jesus told stories that had another meaning. These are called parables, like the Lost Sheep and the Lost Son. (Ask the students if they know of any other parables.)

However, the first books of the Old Testament, (Genesis through to Esther), are not parables. These books record events that actually happened. The same is true of the Gospels and Acts in the New Testament.

Ask the students to think of some of these events and make a list called "Events in history from the Bible", e.g. The Creation, The Flood, the Tower of Babel, The crossing of the Red Sea, the birth of Jesus.

Can the books of the prophets also contain records of real events? Think about Daniel and Jonah. Add these to your list.

God is Creator

Week 4

History of the Old Testament

The Bible gives us the true history of time. Today scientists have convinced the world that the universe is millions of years old.

Let's look at two types of science:

1. Operational science.

For something to be true in science, you must be able to do an experiment. The experiment must be "observable" (you can see it happening), and "repeatable" (you can do the same thing over and over again with the same results.) These two requirements are accepted by all scientists and have been for centuries. It is called the "Scientific Method".

2. Historical Science

This is looking at things from the past and making a guess about how or when they got there. It has to be a guess because no one saw or recorded how or when a fossil or a rock for example, was being made. It was in the distant past. Therefore we can't say that this sort of science is "observable". No one was there to see it happening, so historical science is not science. Finding out about the past is called 'history'. We can say that an event in the past is true only if someone saw it happening.

There was only one person who was present when the world was created. There is only one person who knows everything about the past. That is the God of the Bible, (who is three in one – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.) He has told us about the past in the Bible. The Bible is history.

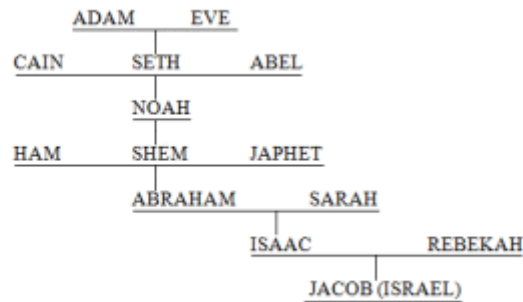
Why do most scientists want to believe that the universe is millions of years old? Because they would rather believe that the universe made itself and it needed millions of years to do it. They do not believe that the world could be made in just six days as the Bible says. They pretend to have accurate ways of measuring the age of things, but they start by assuming that something is already millions of years old, then add more years to that.

Here's an example:

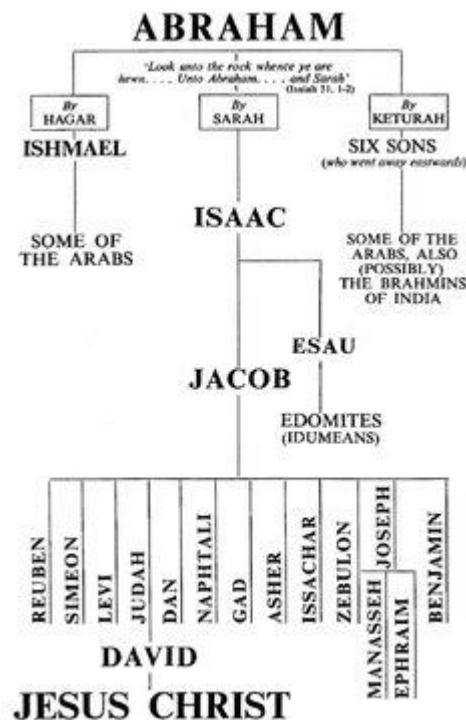
In the USA in 1980, a volcano called Mt. St. Helens erupted. Volcanic rocks were formed. Someone collected one of these rocks and had it tested to see how old it was. The test showed that it was 35,000 years old. And yet we know that it was only formed from molten lava in 1980. How old does that make it? This is just one of many examples that shows the methods scientists use to find out how old things are, are not accurate at all.

Let's look at how old the Bible says the universe is. In Genesis 1 we read that God created Adam on Day 6 of the Creation week. Adam died when he was 930 years old.

The Bible gives us the family tree from Adam to Jacob. It tells us how old the people were when they died. Family trees in the Bible are called the genealogies.



Here's another family tree showing the time from Abraham to Jesus. Note that this family tree is abbreviated from Jacob onwards. There were extra generations between Jacob and Judah, (Joseph's son), extra generations between Judah and King David, and extra generations between David and Jesus. People who study Biblical history can use the genealogies plus events in history to calculate the time period between Adam and Jesus.



Can you see that Adam, Noah, Abraham and Jacob are all related?
 Bible history tells us that there were about 1,600 years from Adam to the Great Flood., then another 2,400 years from the Flood to the birth of Jesus.
 How many years is that? Now add on the years from the time of Jesus birth until today.
 How many years altogether?

Ask the students if they can tell you any facts about some of the people in the family tree of Jesus.

God is Creator

Week 5

The nation of Israel

Bible reference:

Genesis 17:15-22; Genesis 18:1-15

Genesis 22:17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.

Bible lesson

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to him and said, "You will be the father of many nations. You will have many children."

God told Abram that his name would be changed to Abraham, which means "father of many", and his wife Sarai's name would be changed to Sarah.

Abraham fell face down in the presence of God. "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old?" he said, "and will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

One day three visitors came to Abraham's house. He hurried to meet them. "May I get you something to eat and drink?" Abraham asked. "Please come in and have something to eat."

The visitors agreed, so Abraham told Sarah and the servant to prepare some food. Abraham brought them some meat, milk and bread and served it outside the tent under a tree.

While the visitors were eating, they asked Abraham, "Where is your wife Sarah?" "She's in the tent," replied Abraham.

Then one of the men spoke and said, "I will come back to see you at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening from inside the tent. She started to laugh, but covered her mouth and laughed to herself because she didn't want to be heard. Then she said to herself, "How can I have a child, I'm almost one hundred years old?"

Later when the visitors had left, Abraham and Sarah realized that the man who had told them this was indeed God.

A year later, Sarah did have a son. She and Abraham named him Isaac, which means "he laughs."

They were very happy and thanked God for Isaac. One night God told Abraham to go outside and look at the stars. God said, "Do you see all the stars that are in the sky?"

When Abraham looked up, the whole night sky was full of stars, so many in fact that he would never be able to count them. Then God said, "That is how many children you will have".

Discussion:

Abraham became the father of a great nation, Israel. This was a very special nation because God's Son would be born into it. The promise God gives to Abraham is good news for all of mankind... that God would restore the relationship with God that mankind had broken. He would do this through Jesus.

God chose Israel to have a very special purpose in the history of the world. He taught Israel to love and serve Him and punished them when they went astray. Before Jesus came, the people of Israel were saved from their sins through repentance and faith in God; they were to look forward to a Saviour who would one day come. The people of Israel are called 'Jews', and people from other lands are called 'gentiles'. Gentiles also now have the opportunity of being children of God, and can be part of the family of Abraham.

Questions:

What was God's promise to Abraham?

Who are the children that God was going to give Abraham? (Two answers required: 1) He would be father to the nation of Israel, 2) He would be father to all those who accept Jesus as their Saviour.)

Did the promise happen right away?

How many children did God promise? (Genesis 22:17)

What did Abraham do when he heard this promise? (He believed God).

Year 5

God is Wise (4 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God is wise
- God can speak to individuals and show us how to be wise
- Being clever is not the same as being wise
- True wisdom is finding out what God wants us to do
- It is wise to be prepared for the future

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

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

Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Smart shopping and advertising

Link between “God is Wise” and classroom topics:

We show wisdom in making choices and decisions about the things we buy. It is wise to only buy the things we need and not be taken in by the deceptive techniques of advertisers.

Values:

Wisdom, honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; responsibility; discernment

God is Wise

Week 1

Listening to God

Bible references

John 10:11-17 and 27-28 The Good Shepherd

1 Samuel 3 The boy Samuel hears God's voice

Introduction

Ask the students if they have ever listened to the radio.

There are many different voices on the radio, some are good and some are not so good. You have to tune in to the good voices, the ones that you want to hear. Sometimes, if the radio is not tuned in properly you hear static. What does static sound like? ...Just a big meaningless noise.

Bible lesson

We all want to hear from God, but a lot of the times we are actually listening to the wrong voices. There is so much noise in our life, and so much static that it is really hard to hear what God is trying to say to us. What do we need to do? We need to tune our lives to God and be quiet so we can actually hear Him.

Read the Good Shepherd passage. Ask:

Who are the sheep in the sheepfold? (Israel)

Who are the other sheep that are in another sheepfold? (Believers from other nations)

What is the shepherd willing to do for the sheep?

In John 10:27 it says that God's sheep know His voice. That means we are tuned to hear it. Just like sheep can know their shepherd's voice, we can learn God's voice. If a stranger comes up and tries to lead the sheep somewhere bad, do you think they will follow? No, because they know their shepherd's voice.

How do we tune in and start hearing God's voice? We learn God's voice by reading the Bible, memorizing and meditating on it. When God speaks to us it will usually be through His Word, and it will never go against what it says in the Bible. The more we learn about God's Word the more we learn to hear His voice. We can also hear God's voice through prayer. We can ask God to show us what He wants us to do, say or pray. God might speak to us through our thoughts. If that happens we can ask a wise person to pray with us about it. Whatever we think God is telling us to do must agree with what the Bible teaches.

God speaks to children

In the Old Testament we are told about the boy Samuel who didn't recognise God's voice when God was calling him. Samuel went to the wise old man Eli, who helped him understand that it actually was God speaking to him.

Samuel's mother was a woman named Hannah. She wanted a son more than anything, so she prayed and asked God to give her a son. She promised God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to the LORD to serve Him all the days of the boy's life. God gave Hannah the son she asked for and she kept her promise to God. When the boy was old enough, she took him to the temple and presented him to Eli the priest. So Samuel served in the temple under Eli.

One night Samuel was sleeping when he heard someone call his name. He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am; you called me," he said to Eli.

"I didn't call you," Eli answered, "go back to bed." So Samuel went back to bed.

Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" Samuel jumped out of bed and went to Eli. "Here I am; you called me."

"I didn't call you, go back to bed," Eli answered a second time.

A third time God called Samuel and Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am; you called me," he said.

Finally, Eli realized that it was God who was calling Samuel. He told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you again, say, 'Speak LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

Samuel went back to bed and sure enough, again he heard the voice of God calling, "Samuel! Samuel!" This time Samuel answered as Eli had told him, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Samuel knew that God was calling him to do God's work.

God knows your name just as he knew the name of Samuel and God still calls boys and girls today, saying, "Come, follow me." So, listen for God's call and answer just as Samuel did, "Here I am!"

Discussion

How do we hear from God?

What are the ways in which God can speak to us?

God is Wise

Week 2

Wise choices

Bible references

1 Kings 3:1-15 King Solomon asks for wisdom.

1 Kings 3:16-28 Solomon makes a wise decision.

Proverbs 4 The value of wisdom.

James 1:5 Ask God for wisdom.

Definition

What is wisdom?

Wisdom is to know the right thing to do, and doing it.

Bible lesson

The Wisdom of Solomon

We have learned already this year about King David who was one of the kings of Israel in Old Testament times. His youngest son was called Solomon. The Lord chose Solomon to be the new king when David died.

It was Solomon's responsibility to organise the building of the Lord's house. It would be a special building where people could come together to worship God. When Solomon was crowned king, he promised that he would always keep the Lord's commandments. After he was crowned, Solomon and the people went up to a place called Gibeon, to give thanks to God. While they were there, God spoke to Solomon.

King Solomon was one of the Old Testament kings, the son of David. When it was time for him to become king he asked God to guide him in governing the people.

Read 1 Kings 3:4-14

What happened at Gibeon?

Solomon needed wisdom, because as king he had a lot of responsibility, and had to make a lot of decisions. He needed special wisdom in organizing the building of the temple. Solomon wrote many wise sayings. We can read them in a book called Proverbs.

There was a time when Solomon showed great wisdom in sorting out a quarrel between two women. The two women came to Solomon. One had a baby in her arms. The other woman wanted the baby. The woman without the baby started to explain, "I gave birth to a baby, and three days later, this woman had a baby also. But she lay on the baby while she was sleeping and the baby died. She came to my house and stole my baby. Now she says that the baby is hers."

"No!" cried the woman with the baby. "You are lying. The dead baby is yours and the living baby is mine."

How was Solomon to know who the real mother of the baby was? God gave him wisdom.

"Bring me a sword," said Solomon. "I will divide the baby in two."

(Solomon didn't really intend to harm the baby, but the women thought he was serious.)

"No!" cried the woman without the baby. Let this woman have the baby! Don't kill him!"

King Solomon now knew who the real mother was.

"Give the baby to this woman," said the king. "She is the mother."

Soon all of Israel knew of Solomon's wisdom. God gave him wisdom because he chose God above everything else. He could have chosen to be the richest man in the world, but instead he chose to have the wisdom of God. Because Solomon asked for the very important gift of wisdom, God blessed him with it and continued to bless him as a successful and prosperous king.

Discussion

Why did Solomon need wisdom?

Why is it important to have wisdom?

How can we become wise?

Here are some ideas:

- Ask God for wisdom.
- Listen to what God has to say.
- Act responsibly, even when we don't feel like it.
- Listen to parents and others who are wiser than ourselves.

God is Wise

Week 3

Wise actions

Bible references:

Genesis 11:1-11 The tower of Babel

Matthew 7:24-29 The wise and foolish builders

Proverbs 3: 6-8 Do not be wise in your own eyes

The Tower of Babel

This is an account of a group of people who did not ask God for wisdom. They felt that they didn't need God. They wanted to do their own thing. Read the story from Genesis 11:1-11.

What action did God take when He saw the proud hearts of the people?
Read Proverbs 3:6-8. What does it mean to be 'wise in your own eyes'?

Compare this event in history to the building of Noah's Ark. Was the building of the ark Noah's idea or God's? What might have happened if Noah refused to listen to God's instructions? What if he decided to build it his own way?

The Wise and Foolish Builders

This is a story that Jesus told with a special message. It is called a parable.

Discussion

Ask the students if they have ever seen a house, a school or a church being built. Ask the students to share with you what they saw. Explain that before any good builder starts to build walls, put on a roof, make windows and doors, he first digs down until he hits rock, or very strong soil such as clay, and then lays the foundations. The strongest foundations are made of concrete. The builder uses steel rods and beams to reinforce the concrete foundations. They then put up the walls and nail down the floor and roof. When a hurricane or storm comes, houses that do not have a strong foundation may fall over. Jesus is saying that we must take time in life to learn to hear God's voice speaking to us. We can learn what God is saying through the Bible and through people who can teach us about God. This is building our lives on the right foundation. Listening to and copying the actions of those who are going the wrong way is like building our life on the sandy foundation. What are some unwise actions we should not follow? (smoking, drugs, stealing etc).

Sometimes the storms of life cause people to turn away from God. It could be sickness, losing a job, failing an exam, having an accident or facing the death of a loved one. Some people may get angry with God and say to God, "It's your fault that this happened!" Then they become bitter and angry not just with God, but with everyone. They feel sad and lock God out of their lives. But really, the bad things that happen in life are not God's fault at all. Bad things happen because people invited evil into the world, way back in the Garden of Eden. God has given His son Jesus to help us through the storms of life, and one day He will wipe away all sickness and sadness.

It's important to be prepared for the storms of life by having Jesus as a solid foundation. Do you think that the foolish builder really believed that the floods would come? He probably thought that building on the sand was easier anyhow.

Perhaps many people refuse to build their lives on Jesus, (the solid foundation), because they don't believe they will ever need Him. They think that it is easier to live a life doing exactly what they want to do, without having to give any time to God. We all have a choice: the sandy ground or the solid ground. The solid ground is the only wise choice.

God is Wise

Week 4

It is wise to be prepared

Be prepared for Jesus.

Bible references

Matthew 25:1-13 The ten girls and their lamps.

Revelation 3:20 Jesus knocks at the door of our heart.

Discussion

Think about ways in which children prepare for being an adult. Going to school is one way of preparing for the future. You learn things at school that will help you to get a job one day. When you finish school there is still more to learn. Nurses, builders, pilots, teachers and astronauts all need much preparation for their jobs.

Be Prepared

Astronauts must train on earth before they can go into space. They practice working underwater, because floating in water is like floating in space. They work, eat and drink inside a full-sized model of a spacecraft which is submerged in a huge water tank. They must also practice for lift-off and landing. A machine called a centrifuge spins the astronauts around very fast. Spinning gives them the same hard push they will feel when their spacecraft lifts off and zooms upward.

Astronauts need to be very fit. They prepare their bodies by intensive exercise programs. There is much to know about space travel and operating the spacecraft, so they spend a lot of time learning and studying.

For some astronauts, the experience of being in space causes them to think about the wonder of the creation. For one astronaut named Charles Duke, his time in space brought him closer to God than ever before. As he thought about the great God of the universe, he suddenly realised that he was not prepared to meet Him. Although he had spent so much time preparing for the space voyage, he had never given time to God. It was because of this voyage that Charles decided to give his life to Jesus.

Bible lesson: The ten girls and their lamps

This is a parable about some girls who were not prepared for the future. Read the story from Matthew 25:1-13. Five were prepared for the journey but five were not.

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. We know this because the Bible often tells us about 'anointing' when speaking about the Holy Spirit. To anoint means to pour oil on to someone's head as a symbol that they are set apart for a special purpose. In Luke 4:18 Jesus said, "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor."

Jesus wants us to prepare our hearts for the future. We can prepare our mind by learning, and we can prepare our bodies by healthy eating and exercise, but there is only one way to prepare our heart. Find out about this from Revelation 3:20.

Five of the ten girls were not prepared for the future. Jesus told this story to show us that we must be prepared for the day when He comes again. We will be prepared if we have asked Jesus to forgive us for our sin and to be our special friend.

Year 5

God is a Servant (4 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- Service is giving to others and wanting to make a difference in their lives
- The needs of others are just as important as our own needs
- True service requires giving our best effort
- Children can be God's servants
- We can change the world by serving God and others

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Work and occupation

Link between "God is a Servant" and the topic:

Work is an important way to serve others. We should always do our best work.

Values

Flexibility; humility; willingness; thoughtfulness; sacrifice

God is a Servant

Week 1

Being a servant

Bible references

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

John 13:1-15 Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others

Definition of serving

Serving is giving to others and wanting to make a difference in their lives. It doesn't have to be money. It can be just helping out. It can be showing kindness and care. A true servant of God has a willing heart. We do not serve to make ourselves feel good, or to get a reward. We see the need and do whatever needs to be done, without being asked. You always do your best.

Discussion

How could you be a servant?

- It is raining and your mother is coming up the road without an umbrella.
- A new student in your school looks a little lost.
- Your teacher is struggling to carry an armful of materials.
- A student who is physically handicapped is having trouble climbing the steps up into the bus with a heavy school bag.

Bible Lesson

Read Mark 10:45

Jesus didn't come for others to serve Him, but to serve and help others. Our reason for serving must come from our love for God and others and our desire to be more like Jesus.

Read John 13:1-15

Jesus washed the disciples' feet. This is an act of serving.

Jesus explained to the disciples that even though he was the Saviour, he still served them. He wanted them to understand that they should serve each other. Read John 13:15 again. Jesus wants us to follow his example and serve others.

Discussion

Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet?

What did Jesus want the disciples to do?

What does Jesus want us to do?

Serving isn't something that we should hate doing. It should be something that brings us joy! We don't have to wash feet as Jesus did to be serving. Children can

serve by helping their parents with jobs around the house. We can help out at church by opening a door for an elderly person. There are always ways to serve and help others.

Another way to serve is to pray for others. Instead of only praying for our own needs, we can be servants by praying for those around us. Serving is basically about others and not ourselves! When we serve, we should aim to become more like Jesus, caring for those around us more than we do for our own needs and wants. Jesus wants us to serve whenever we can, even if we are not asked to help or are not rewarded for our help.

Activity

Practice serving. Do some cleaning up around the school.

Questions

1. How do your parents serve you? List three ways.
2. How can you serve your parents? List three ways.
3. What attitude should we have to serving?
4. What difference does it make to your work when you have a right attitude?
5. How do you show that you care about others?
6. Describe some people who need others to help them.

God is a Servant

Week 2

Being faithful

Bible references

John 17:1-26 Jesus was faithful to His friends. He prayed for them; He provided for them.

Luke 10:4; Matthew 17:27; John 21:15 Jesus loved and forgave His friends.

Luke 12:35-47 The faithful servant is the one who knows what his master wants, and does it.

Hebrews 2:17 Jesus, the faithful servant

1 Samuel 18, 19, 20 The faithful friendship between David and Jonathan

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times

Proverbs 18:24 There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Definition

Ask if anyone knows what 'faithful' means.

Faithful is another word for 'loyal'.

A faithful friend is one who sticks by you through good and bad times. They never let you down.

How would you show faithfulness to your best friend?

How can you serve your best friend?

Brainstorm

Jesus had twelve best friends and He was faithful to them all. How did He faithfully serve His best friends?

Write ideas on a large piece of paper. Discuss each idea. Some suggestions could be...
He LOVED them, PROVIDED & PRAYED for them
He TAUGHT them about God
He WASHED their feet
He always did what He said He would do

Jesus continued to be faithful to His friends even after He returned to Heaven. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them. When the Holy Spirit came He comforted them and gave them the ability to do great miracles.

Jesus promises that He will be our best friend too if we invite Him into our life. He will be just as faithful to us as He was to His disciples.

David and Jonathan

Here is a true story from the Old Testament about two faithful friends, David and Jonathan. David was the shepherd boy who killed Goliath.

King Saul had a son whose name was Jonathan. Jonathan was a brave young soldier. From the moment he met David he loved him. Jonathan admired David's bravery and strong faith in God. Jonathan, being a prince, had fine clothes. David was a poor shepherd boy and had no fine clothes. Jonathan gave David his fine belt and coat, as well as his sword and bow and arrows. David and Jonathan were like brothers. They promised to be faithful friends as long as they lived.

When King Saul became jealous of David, and could not control his anger, David's life was in danger. Both David and Jonathan knew that King Saul might kill David. Jonathan helped to protect David by warning him of the king's anger. Jonathan thought up a special secret sign to tell David that the king was angry, and that David must hide. This was the sign: Jonathan said he would shoot some arrows in a field, near a certain rock. David must hide behind the rock and watch. Jonathan would take a boy with him to the field to fetch the arrows. If Jonathan shot the arrows to land in front of the boy, then David would know that everything was safe, but if he shot the arrows beyond the boy, the David would know that it would be dangerous to come out from hiding.

At the palace, things were not good. "Why are you friends with David!" Saul shouted at Jonathan. Jonathan knew that he must warn David. The next morning he went to the field with a boy as arranged. He warned David with the special secret sign. David and Jonathan were sad to part. Jonathan went back to the king's palace, while David hurried off to hide in a cave. Although they could no longer be together, they always remembered each other as best friends.

Discussion

How was Jonathan faithful to David?

How did Jonathan serve David?

What is the definition of a good friend, found in Proverbs 17:17?

Who is the friend who sticks closer than a brother? (Proverbs 18:24)

Activity

Think of a way in which you can serve your best friend this week.

Make a card or gift for your friend with the Bible verse: A friend loves at all times.

Proverbs 17:17

God is a Servant

Week 3

Serving with humility

To be great in God's kingdom you must become a servant.

Bible references

Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45 A servant of all

Matt 9:27-31 Humility in asking for help

Luke 14:7-11 Don't make yourself important

Luke 18:9-14 The Pharisee and the tax collector

Introduction

Think of some ways in which we can help others.

(Some members of the group can mime helping activities. Others can guess what they are miming.)

Bible research

What is a servant?

Read Matthew 20:26b.

What did Jesus mean when He told His disciples to be servants?

Read Matthew 20:28.

How did Jesus give us an example of serving?

Story 1: Don't make yourself important

Read the story from Luke 14:7-11.

What point was Jesus trying to make in this story? (Verse 11)

Story 2: The Pharisee and the tax collector

Two men went into the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, (one of the proud leaders of the temple) and the other was a tax collector. People hated tax collectors because they stole money and cheated.

The Pharisee said out loud, "God I thank you that I am not wicked like other men who are unkind and selfish and evil. I'm glad I'm not like this tax collector. I pray every day and I give money to the poor."

The tax collector was praying in the corner where no one could see him. His prayer was quite different. He stood with his head bowed and said quietly, "God please forgive me for the wrong things I have done."

Jesus told his disciples that the tax collector was praying in the right way; he was being humble. But the Pharisee was being proud. The Pharisee was not even praying. He was telling God and all those around him who could hear him, how wonderful he was. He did not think he needed anything from God. The tax collector knew he needed God's forgiveness and God answered his prayer. He went away feeling happy.

Think...

Which of these things will make a person greatest in God's kingdom?

- Having beautiful clothes
- Being rich
- Being an important person in the church
- Telling God, "I'm sorry"
- Telling God that you need Him
- Being really clever
- Admitting that you have a lot to learn
- Being a good runner
- Being kind
- Being humble
- Knowing Jesus

Puzzle

Who said this? (Mark 10:44)

Children can make this puzzle: cut out the pieces then put them together again.



God is a Servant

Week 4

Serving through giving

Bible references

2 Cor 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Mark 2:1-12 Jesus healed a paralysed man (Giving to people with special needs)

Luke 16:10 Be faithful in little things.

Matthew 25:14-29 Parable of the talents

John 6:1-13 The boy who gave his lunch to Jesus

Introduction

We have been learning about serving. What are some ways in which we can serve? (Students may suggest 'doing jobs').

Explain that we can also serve by giving our time, our talents and our money.

Let's think about giving our talents.

What are some examples of talents?

Make a list, e.g. drawing, singing, sport.

Some people have a talent in being friendly towards others and sharing happiness.

God has given each person not just one talent, but many. If we are to be faithful servants, we should ask God how we can use our gifts and talents for Him. Our whole life can be a gift to Him.

Bible Story: The Three Servants

Read the story from Matthew 25:14-29

Discussion

This story is a parable told by Jesus. Jesus meant the story to have another meaning. It is not just a story about servants receiving bags of money. The hidden meaning is to do with God's servants receiving gifts from Him. The servants received different amounts of money. We cannot measure God's gifts to people in 'amounts', but we can say that God gives people different *kinds* of gifts.

To some He gives a gift of music. To others He gives the gift of caring. There are many different ways in which we can serve Him.

Just as the men in the story had to use their money to earn money, we can use our talents to serve God.

What talents can we use to serve God?

One man in the story did not use his talent. What was the result?

What if God has given you a talent and you do not use it? What will be the result?

How can we grow and develop our talents?

How can we serve with money?

Make a list of ways in which money can be used to serve God, e.g. helping those who don't have enough food; giving to the church.

Read 2 Cor 9:7. What should our attitude be when we give? Should we be annoyed about giving away something that belongs to us?

How can we serve by sharing the things we have?

Remember the little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus? (John 6:1-13) Many hungry people were helped by what the little boy gave. Jesus performed a miracle by turning the 5 bread rolls and 2 fish into enough food to feed five thousand people. The little boy didn't think about how hungry he might be if he gave his lunch away. He just willingly gave his lunch to Jesus.

How can we serve with our time?

Make another list, e.g. giving up our free time to help our parents or spend time with someone who is sick, lonely or sad.

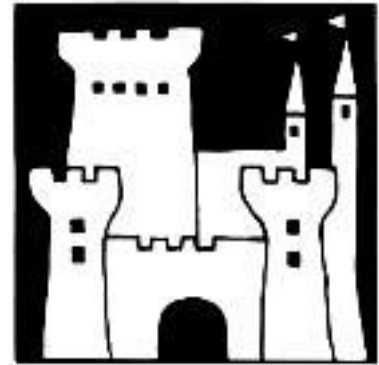
How did Jesus help people in need?

Jesus used His healing power to heal those who were sick and disabled.

Read Mark 2:1-12

Year 5

God is Protector (3 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That we can go to God when we are in trouble
- God answers prayer
- The Biblical examples of God's miraculous protection

Related topic for Science, Social Studies and Health:

The history of shelter

Link between "God is Protector" and the topics:

God is our shelter:

Psalm 91 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Values:

Responsibility; security; peace; faith

God is Protector

Week 1

God is a strong tower

We can go to God when we face problems.

Bible references

Joshua 2-6 God's protection of Joshua and the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower.

Psalm 17:8; Psalm 27:5; Psalm 32:7 God is a shelter for us.

Introduction

Q. What do castles and igloos have in common?

A. They are both places to go to for shelter.

Draw or look at some pictures of shelters: castles, caves, forts etc.

What do shelters protect us from?

Bible research

Read some of the Bible verses listed above, telling us that God is our shelter.

Discussion

Think of situations in which people may need God's shelter.

Just as a shelter is a place to go for protection, so is God.

Sometimes God protects us from unseen dangers. God could have protected you many times without you even knowing it. He can prevent us from walking into danger before we actually do.

Story: God Protects the Israelites Again

We remember how God protected the Israelites as they came out of Egypt, and as they travelled those forty years through the desert.

Now, after forty years, it was time for them to enter the land that God had promised to them. Moses was no longer leading the people. Moses, being very old, had died, and Joshua was now the leader.

Joshua was faced with two problems. The land across the Jordan River that God had promised to the Israelites was occupied by enemies. The second problem was how to get a huge group of people, including young children and animals, across a huge river. Joshua knew that God would somehow solve these problems. He knew what God was saying, and he told the people.

"Be strong and brave," says the Lord. "I will go with you."

Joshua chose two men to cross the river, so that they could investigate the city on the other side. It was the city of Jericho. The men were strong swimmers, and made it safely across the river. Then they waited for their chance. When the guards were not looking, they made a run for it. They entered the city unnoticed, quickly looked around, then ran to a house built on the wall of the city. Pressing themselves against the wall, they peered in the window. Inside the house was a woman. They went into the woman's house and asked whether they could rest a while before attempting the strenuous river crossing again. The woman's name was Rahab. The woman allowed the two men to stay and rest. By now it was night. They would have to spend the night there and cross the river in the morning.

However, trouble lay ahead for the two men. Read about it in Joshua 2:2-3.

God used Rahab to protect the two men. You would not expect someone from an enemy city to do this, but God caused her to shelter the two men.

Read about it in Joshua 2:4-7.

So the two men hid safely in Rahab's house while the king's soldiers went looking for them down by the river. As the two men talked to Rahab they found out that the people of Jericho were afraid of the Israelites. This was important information. They could plan their battle tactics accordingly.

Rahab knew that the Israelites were planning to take the city. She made a deal with the two men. She asked them to save her, along with her family, in payment for the protection she had provided. It was agreed.

Find out how God used Rahab again in the men's escape. (Joshua 2:15-24)

Now Joshua was confident that they could enter the Promised Land. Find out how they crossed the river. (Joshua 3:15-17)

Seeing the Lord do this great miracle made the people of Jericho even more afraid of the Israelites. The Israelites took the city after marching around the walls seven times. After seven times they gave a great shout and blew their trumpets. The city was theirs!

God is Protector

Week 2

God protects His people

God provides special protection for His own people

Bible reference

Esther 1-10 God used Esther to protect her people, the Jews.

Bible Lesson: Esther, the Beautiful Queen

Many years ago, in the country of Babylon, lived king Ahasuerus. Many of God's special people, the Jews, were living in Babylon at the time of his rule. There was someone in the kingdom, of notable position, who did not like the Jews and who was devising a wicked plot to get rid of them. It was the king's high servant, Hamaan.

Hamaan was a very proud man. All the people of the kingdom had to bow down to him. He had a lot of influence, even over the king. Now the king was looking for a new queen. He had dismissed the previous queen Vashti, because she had displeased him. For his new queen, the king wanted the most beautiful young lady in the whole kingdom. The king held a beauty contest. When the king had seen all the beautiful young ladies in the kingdom, he chose Esther. The king did not know it, but Esther was a Jewess.

One day, Esther's father, Mordecai, found out that two men were planning to kill the king. He told Esther, and Esther told the king. The two men were caught and put to death. The king was pleased with Mordecai for saving his life.

Hamaan was jealous of Mordecai's favour with the king. He knew Mordecai was a Jew. That made him hate Mordecai even more. He asked Mordecai to bow to him but Mordecai refused. This made Hamaan very angry. He decided that now was the time to put his wicked plan into action. He planned to have all Jews in the kingdom killed.

The first step in his plan was to influence the king. (The king still didn't know that Esther and Mordecai were Jewish.)

Hamaan bowed before the king and said, "The Jews who live in your land do not obey your rules, O King." This was a lie. "They are of no good to you. Why don't you have them all killed?"

As well as being proud, Hamaan was also rich. He promised to give the king 10,000 pieces of silver if he would make the new rule. The king agreed. Soon, word of the new rule was around the kingdom. When Mordecai found out, he was very distressed. He wrote a letter to his daughter:

"You must go to the king," he wrote. "You must talk the king into abolishing the new rule. You must save your people!"

Esther sent back a reply:

"Don't you know that a person cannot go into the King's presence unless he is called for? The penalty for disobeying is death. However, if he were to hold out his golden sceptre to me, then I would know that it is alright to go."

Esther was afraid to go, but finally she decided that she must. She asked her father to gather all the Jewish people together and to do nothing but pray for three days. They were not even to eat.

On the third day Queen Esther dressed herself as beautifully as possible and presented herself to the king. The king held out his golden sceptre to her. She came and touched the tip of it. Then she invited the king to a special banquet.

On the second day of the banquet, she asked the king if she could make a request.

"What do you request?" asked the king.

"Please save me and my people from being killed," Esther pleaded.

"Who would dare touch you?" asked the king.

"Hamaan has lied to you, O king. The Jewish people, of whom I am one, do not disobey your laws. It is just a wicked plot," Esther replied.

The king was filled with rage. He commanded that Hamaan be hanged, and a new rule was made to protect the Jews from death. Then he gave Hamaan's place of honour to Mordecai. Because of Esther's bravery and obedience to God, all Jews in the kingdom of Babylon were saved from death.

Many people today show bravery in serving God. Some people face dangers as they take His word to places where it is forbidden. They must trust God to protect them.

Questions

1. Where were many of the Jews living, when this story took place?
2. Who was scheming to get rid of the Jews?
3. Describe Hamaan.
4. Why did the king choose Esther for his new queen?
5. Did the king know that she was a Jewess?
6. Who was Mordecai?
7. Why was the king pleased with Mordecai?
8. Why did Hamaan hate Mordecai?
9. How did Hamaan plan to get Mordecai, and all the other Jews, killed?
10. How did Esther save her people from death?
11. Why was it such a risk to go to the king without being called for?
12. Why would you say that Esther showed great courage?

God is Protector

Week 3

Miracles of protection

Bible research

Make a list of all the Old Testament stories that tell us about the protection of God's people.

Activity

Make a time-line, beginning with Adam and Eve and ending with Jesus Christ. Use the Bible stories students have listed in the Bible research section and place them in their correct sequence on the time-line.

Check: Did we forget any Bible stories about protection?

Discussion

God gave special protection to the Israelites.

Why was this group of people special to God in Old Testament times?

Who are God's special people now? *Answer: The Jews are still God's special people but so are all those who receive Jesus.*

Game: Charades

Work in pairs to mime Old Testament stories that show us God's protection. The group must guess which story is being mimed.

Discussion

Although we are not always aware of God's protection, there are some occasions when we KNOW that God has protected us. These times make us aware that God is very real and very close to us. Can you think of a time when you have been aware of God's special protection for you or your family?

True Story: God's Smuggler

Andrew, son of a blacksmith, grew up in a typical Dutch town. Living in Holland, a free country, Andrew had great concern for people in countries where the gospel could not be preached. Some of these countries were Russia, Hungary, Albania and China. In those days, the Socialist government did not allow religious freedom.

When Andrew grew older he conducted missions to these countries. With his car packed with Bibles, concealed in all sorts of secret compartments, he would drive his car through border crossings. As he did, he prayed that the Lord would 'close the eyes' of the border guards. God did it time and time again.

Here is a story about one of Andrew's experiences. He had just made it through the Hungarian border without being caught. God had again made seeing eyes blind. He drove on through the beautiful countryside which followed the River Danube. He started to feel hungry so decided to stop for some lunch. He drove down a sandy lane

and stopped at a little clearing at the water's edge. In order to get to the camp stove, Andrew had to move several boxes of gospel literature that the guards had just overlooked. No sooner had he opened the can of peas and carrots when he heard the roar of a speed boat approaching. The boat was heading towards Andrew at full throttle. In the bow stood a soldier with drawn machine-gun. At the last possible instant the boat swerved and coasted to a neat landing at the river's edge. Andrew now saw that there were two other soldiers in the boat. The man in the front leapt ashore followed by another one.

"Lord," Andrew prayed, "help me not to be afraid."

The first soldier kept the machine-gun on Andrew while the other ran to the car. Andrew kept stirring the peas and carrots as he heard the car door open.

"Well," said Andrew, "it is certainly nice to have you drop in this way. Would you care to join me?"

Andrew reached into his picnic box and drew out two extra plates. He motioned to the soldier to come and sit down. The soldier stared stonily and shook his head, as if to say, "I'm not going to be bribed." Andrew could hear the other soldier poking around. Any moment now he was going to ask about those boxes.

"Well," said Andrew, "if you don't mind, I'm going to go ahead and eat while the food is hot."

Andrew bowed his head and prayed. Then an amazing thing happened. While he prayed there was no sound from the soldier inspecting his car. Just as soon as he had finished praying, the door slammed. Andrew heard the sound of footsteps coming rapidly towards him. He picked up his fork and started to eat. For a moment both soldiers stood over him. Then abruptly they whirled around. Without looking behind them, they ran down to their boat, jumped in, and roared off in a spray of white. That was the last he saw of them.

From God's Smuggler by Brother Andrew (Used by the permission of "Mission Without Borders")

Questions

1. Name some of the countries that Andrew went to.
2. Why did he want to go to these countries in particular?
3. What miracles did God do for Andrew, to enable him to get Bibles into these countries?
4. Why would you say that Andrew showed great courage?
5. What do you think could have happened to Andrew if he had been caught?
6. Write about a time when God has protected you, or someone close to you.

Discussion

Think of times when God has protected you, or someone close to you. Also think of times when God may have protected you without you even knowing it.

Year 5

God is Truth (3 weeks)



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- The Bible is the true Word of God
- Truth is one of the attributes of God. Jesus is the truth. When on earth He spoke and lived God's truth
- Christians can have confidence in the authority of God's Word
- God wants us to relate truthfully to others.

Related topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Discovering truth through the scientific method; Laws of the universe that are consistent and true: gravity, pendulums, electricity

Link between "God is Truth" and classroom topics:

God is consistent, true and unchanging, as are the laws that He established in His Creation.

Values:

Honesty, fairness and respect for truth and justice; integrity

God is Truth

Week 1

Facts about the Bible

Bible reference:

Psalm 19:7-8 (Good News Bible)

The law of the Lord is perfect; it gives new strength.

The commands of the Lord are trustworthy, giving wisdom to those who lack it.

The laws of the Lord are right, and those who obey them are happy.

The commands of the LORD are just and give understanding to the mind.

They give knowledge to me, your servant; I am rewarded for obeying them.

Psalm 18:30 As for God, His way is perfect: The Lord's Word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him.

Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God stands forever.

John 1: 1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.

John 14:16 Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

2 Tim 3:16 Scripture is God-breathed

Introduction

Ask the students what they know about the Bible. Make a list.

How the Bible is divided

The Bible is divided into two parts. Ask the students to tell you what we call those two parts, (Old and New Testaments).

The word 'testament' has two meanings:

- 1) A Testament is a free gift from one person to another, and
 - 2) An agreement between two persons in which they make promises to each other.
- Both these meanings apply in the 'Old Testament' and the 'New Testament': God makes a free gift available to people, and God and people make promises to each other.

1. The Old Testament tells the long story of God's goodness to His people and of their agreement to be faithful to Him because He is faithful to them.
2. The New Testament tells the story of God's continued goodness in giving His best gift, the gift of Jesus Christ, and of how men can take that gift, and be so

changed by Him and so grateful to Him that they agree to serve Him in loyalty and faithfully all their lives.

Questions:

1. Which was written first? (*Old Testament*)
2. Which people group is the Old Testament mostly about? (*Hebrews/ Israelites /Jews*).
3. How did the people who wrote the Bible get their ideas (*They recorded real event, or what God showed them.*)

The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language, and the New Testament was written in the Greek language. Not all the Old Testament or the New Testament was written at the same time. It took more than a thousand years from when the first part of the Old Testament was written down until the New Testament was finished.

What does God say about the Bible?

The Bible is also called 'God's Word'. The first five books are called "God's law" and were written by Moses.

Read Psalm 19:7 -8

Make a list of facts about God's Word from this Psalm.

Verse 7: perfect, (without mistake); it gives us strength. How? Trustworthy – every word from God is true; gives wisdom. What is wisdom?

Verse 8: right – it can never be wrong; just – all God's commands are fair

More facts about the Bible (Revision from the "God is Creator" Term 2)

The Bible is made up of many books, rather than one book that you read from the beginning to the end. The Bible is a library made up of a variety of books written over a long period of time.

Ask the students to look at the Bible index. There are 66 books written by approximately 36 different people over a period of approximately 1600 years.

Some books of the Bible were written a long time before Jesus Christ (BC), and some not long after the time of Christ (AD), but still a long time before our present time.

Briefly revise the categories of books:

1. Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)
2. History (Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther)
3. Poetry (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs)
4. Prophecy (Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)

The New Testament is also divided into four sections:

1. Gospels (Matthew Mark, Luke, John)

2. Early church History (Acts)
3. Letters to (Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John, Jude.
4. Prophecy Revelation

Ways in which the Bible was written:

Clay tablets: (the method used by the civilization in the dry climate around the River Euphrates).

Marks were made on wet clay with a piece of wood. This piece, of wood was about the size of a pencil, but instead of being round it was wedge-shaped. When the wet clay dried in the hot sun, it became very hard and lasted for a long time. Many clay tablets have lasted for a long time. Many clay tablets have lasted until now and can still be read.

Scrolls: The Egyptians cut reeds (like pandanus) on the banks of the River Nile. From the middle of the reed they stripped off long white pieces which they stuck together in a criss-cross pattern to make a sheet. This was called ‘papyrus’ and from this comes our word ‘paper’. The sheets of papyrus were stuck together to make a long roll. The news or story was written on this scroll which was then rolled up. Scrolls were used in Jesus time (Luke 4:16, 17). Scrolls are still used in Jewish synagogues. They are most beautifully written by hand, and kept in cloth covers, richly embroidered and often have small bells attached to the end which tinkle when they are brought out of the cupboard to be read in Jewish worship.



The Bible and Jesus tell us the truth about God

All religions have their ‘holy books’ or sacred texts that teach them what God is like. The Christian’s holy book is the Bible, containing both the Old and New Testaments.

One reason why Christians say the Bible *is* true is because they have tried out its view of life and found it works. (Share a personal testimony here.)

The Bible tells us about Jesus, who was also called by the Apostle John ‘The Word’ because He not only said what God said, but also lived a life of truth in the way God said humans should live (John 1: 1-3).

Jesus showed us the truth about God and He described himself as ‘the way, the truth and the Life’ (John 14:16).

Discuss:

Discuss the meaning of John 14:6. (Jesus is the only way to God).

When we follow Jesus, or say we belong to him, we must be people who are finding out truth from the Bible, and are truthful people to each other. That way we shall live a life that is free and truthful.

God is Truth

Week 2

The word of God in our hearts

Bible references

Psalm 119:105 God's Word is a lamp to my feet

Matthew 13:1-23 The parable of the Sower

Introduction

Show the students a torch and ask them why a torch is useful.

When is it most useful? (In the dark)

A torch guides us helps us find our way in the dark.

Read Psalm 119:105.

We can say that because of sin entering the world when Adam and Eve sinned, our world is in darkness....Darkness is a symbol for sin and suffering. Light is a symbol for things that are right and true. God's Word is like a light that guides us through a world of darkness.

But if we want God's light to guide us, there is something we have to do. That is, to invite Jesus to be our guide through life and to do what God says to do in His Word.

The Sower and the Seed

Read the parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-10, then 18-23)

Draw four large squares on the blackboard or a large sheet of paper. Draw the types of soil and the seeds as you read the story.

The seed is the Word of God.

The path was like hard-hearted people. The seed can't sink into their hearts and Satan comes quickly and takes God's message away. These people can't remember the message so they can't do what God is telling them to do.

The shallow ground had very little soil covering the hard rock. The seeds sprouted in the soil, but when the sun came up, the young plants dried out, so a gust of wind blew them away. This soil is like people who are happy to hear God's Word preached, and they say 'Yes' to God's invitation to receive Jesus, have their sins forgiven, and lead a new life. But they expect that being a Christian means they will never again have any troubles, and the Bible doesn't promise that. The Bible says that we will still have trouble, sickness, hardship like anyone else, perhaps even more than other people if we are determined to live for Jesus. 'Shallow ground' people are easily discouraged when hard times come, and they just get sad and give up.

Sometimes when students are faced with a hard task to do, they also give up. Jesus wants us to listen when His Word is being taught so that it can go deep into our

hearts. Everybody can start well, but God is looking for good finishers. What sort of person are we? A good starter and poor finisher, or a good starter and a better finisher!

'Thorn bush' ground was good soil, so good in fact that all the plants wanted to grow there, including the thorn bushes. The farmer didn't weed all the thorns away, and gradually they grew up and sheltered the farmer's plants from the life-giving sun and rain. They also choked the plants at their roots, so the plants grew up but they were very weak and sickly looking and didn't produce anything for the farmer to harvest. Some people appear to be very interested in God's Word. They go to Sunday school and church, and do work in the church. But other things are very important to them too, like being important in the eyes of others, and being wealthy, and these things become more important than obeying God. Their hearts are so crowded with all these things that the fruits God wants to see growing, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control (Gal5:22). These are the Fruit of the Spirit

The Good soil was deep and free of weeds. A single seed produced 30 or 60 or even 100 more seeds. From this soil the happy farmer reaped a great harvest that fed his family. This 'good soil' is like people who hear God's Word, understand what God is saying, and say "yes" to everything God tells them to do, even if it is not what they want to do. They grow up to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful humble people who are in control of themselves. They inspire other people to become Christians because of their good example.

God is Truth

Week 3

Telling the truth and living truthfully

Bible references

John 8:22 You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man that He should lie.

Acts 5:1-11 Ananias and Sapphira

Leviticus 19:11 Do not steal. "Do not lie. "Do not deceive one another.

What is Truthfulness?

Ask the students for ideas and make a list.

Truthfulness is being honest in your words and actions. Read John 3:21 and discuss 'living the truth.'

- You don't tell lies, even to protect yourself from getting into trouble.
- You don't listen to gossip and prejudice.
- You see with your own eyes and make up your own mind about what is true.
- Being true to yourself means being who and what you are, without exaggerating
- You don't try to impress others or try to look like something you are not.

- It is being yourself, your true self.

The opposite of truth is lying.

God never lies (Numbers 23:19). Lies come from the enemy of God, Satan.

What does the Bible say about lying?

Read Leviticus 19:11

Read the story of Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:1-11

What dishonest thing did they do?

What should have they done?

What were the consequences?

What does Jesus say about truth?

John 8:22

Who is the truth?

Why practice Truthfulness?

- Without truthfulness, no one can tell if someone is lying or telling the truth.
- We couldn't trust anyone. They might be telling the truth but they might be telling a made-up story.
- They get imagination mixed up with reality.
- When people are truthful, they say what they mean, and mean what they say.
- Truthfulness builds trust. People know where they stand with a truthful person.

How do you practice Truthfulness?

- Always choose to tell the truth. If someone asks your opinion, give it tactfully!
- When you make a mistake, admit it rather than trying to cover it up.
- Instead of listening to gossip, find out the truth for yourself.
- Recognize the difference between fantasy and reality. If you start telling a story that becomes exaggerated with deliberate errors or fibs ("loose with the truth"), stop and tell what really happened.
- Let people see you as you are, without trying to look more important. You are truly worthy just as you are.

What would truthfulness look like if ...

- Someone tells you that your best friend is saying mean things about you and decides not to be your friend anymore?
- You find yourself making excuses to cover up a mistake?
- You feel like exaggerating how well you did in a sport event?
- A friend asks you what you think of the strange outfit he is wearing?
- Someone makes a bad comment about all people of a different race?
- You feel like making up a horrible story to scare your little sister?

Signs of Success

Congratulations! You are practicing truthfulness when you

- Speak only the truth
- Practice justice by investigating the truth for yourself
- Don't let others tell you what to think
- Can tell the difference between fact and fantasy
- Admit it when you have made a mistake
- Know you are enough -- don't exaggerate or deceive to impress others

Summary:

To be truthful is to:

Speak the truth

See and understand truth

Not impress others or exaggerate

Be content to be my true self

Discussion:

1. What would it feel like to have a good friend tell you a lie?
2. What does the liar feel like after telling a lie?
3. Why do we sometimes try to exaggerate what we do or what we have?
4. How does truthfulness help our relationships?
5. What are some things you truly care about?
6. What would you do or say if someone began gossiping or saying prejudiced things in front of you?

Year 5



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
- The birth of Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament
- John the Baptist was chosen by God to tell people to get ready for the coming of Jesus

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Any creation topic that shows God's power and greatness. (Continue on from 'God is Truth')

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

Discuss with the 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

The world waited for His coming.

Bible References

Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9 Christ's coming foretold by the prophets.
Luke 1:5-25; 57-80 The birth of John the Baptist

Introduction

People of Old Testament times knew how difficult it was to keep God's commandments. God knew this too. When people of the Old Testament broke the commandments, they had to offer a sacrifice to God to show that they were sorry. That meant they had to give up their best sheep or goat.

God knew that there was a better way. He promised His people that He would one day send someone who would be able to take away people's sins. That person was God's Son, Jesus. God told the prophets that Jesus would come one day. Many were looking forward to the coming of this special person who they called the Messiah.

Bible Research

Look up some Old Testament verses that speak of the coming of Jesus. (Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 9:9)

When the time for Jesus' coming had arrived, God sent a messenger to tell everyone, so they would not miss Him. The messenger told the people that Jesus really was the Son of God, and that they must get ready for Him. They must turn away from their sin. The name of the special messenger was John the Baptist.

The Birth of John the Baptist

Part 1 Zechariah meets an angel

(Read Luke 1:5-8 & 11-20)

Zechariah sees the angel while working in the temple. The angel tells Zechariah the news, that he and his wife Elizabeth will have a baby, even though they are quite old. They are to call the baby John.

Zechariah will not believe the angel, so the Lord seals His lips. He is unable to speak until after the baby is born.

Part 2 John the Baptist is born

(Read Luke 1:57-64)

Zechariah explains that everything happened as the angel had said. He cannot speak until he finally writes down the baby's name for everyone to see...

HIS NAME IS JOHN (*Have ready a prepared card showing the name JOHN*)

Part 3 John's special job

(Read Luke 1:76-77)

Zechariah explains his son's work: God has sent John the Baptist to tell people that they must get ready for God's Son. They must believe and repent. (Repenting is turning away from sin).

Activity

The events in the following story appear in jumbled order. Students write numbers down the left hand side to give the correct sequence of events. Ask: "What happened first in the story?" (Ans: 'The angel brought the news...' – put a no. 1 next to this, etc.)

- Zechariah did not believe the angel so the Lord sealed his lips.
- Zechariah wrote the baby's name: "His name shall be John".
- The baby was born.
- The angel brought the news to Zechariah that his wife would have a son.


Memory verse

Revise John 3:16.

Puzzle

What was the special message that John the Baptist preached?

The mess++ah

is h+.

+-s and

are-a + -agon.

Answer: The Messiah is here. Believe and repent.

God is Lord and King

Week 2

The birth of Jesus

Bible References

Luke 1:26-39; 2:1-7; Matthew 1:8-25

Introduction

We talked last week about the angel from God named Gabriel. He told Zacharias about John. The angel Gabriel also came to Mary, and told Mary she would have a baby. The angel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was also expecting a baby.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy the angel came to Mary and said, "You will become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be the king of all the descendents of Jacob, and His kingdom will never end."

(Discuss the Biblical timeline from previous lessons: Jacob was a descendent of Abraham who was promised many children – the nation of Israel and as well, all those who accept Jesus as Saviour.)

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, for I am not married?"

The angel said, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Remember your cousin Elizabeth? She herself is six months pregnant, even though she is old. For there is nothing that God cannot do."

Mary hurried to Elizabeth's house. When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the baby moved within her, and Elizabeth was also filled with the Holy Spirit.

One night, an angel of the Lord went and told Joseph that Mary was going to have a son and they would name Him Jesus. The angel said that Jesus would save people from their sins. Joseph took Mary as his wife. Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth and Joseph is a carpenter.

The Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, made a law that everyone should be taxed. So the Roman government ordered people to go to their tribal ancestral city, in order to be enrolled in the census. Joseph was from the Tribe of Judah, so Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. It was about 120 km, (75 miles), from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

When Joseph and Mary finally arrived at Bethlehem, they found that there were a lot of people there. As there wasn't any room for them at the inn, they had to stay the night in the stable at the back, where the animals were kept. (Luke 2:7)

During their time in Bethlehem, it was time for Jesus to be born. Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes (tight linen bands), which she had brought with her. She laid Him in a manger, which is a feeding trough for animals. (Luke 2:7)

That same night, an angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds. They were out in their fields during the night, watching over their sheep. They were very afraid! But the angel told the shepherds: "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and He will be lying in a manger." (Luke 2:8-20)

The shepherds wanted to see baby Jesus. They went right away! After they saw Jesus, they told everyone about Him!

Mary and Joseph found a home in Bethlehem and stayed there. The shepherds had come to visit Jesus on the night that he was born, but about a year and a half to two years later, some other important visitors came.

There were wise men and they lived far to the east. They were also called 'magi'. These were men who studied books of prophecy, telling events to come. Their books told them that a king would be born and the sign would be a special star in the sky. One night, they saw the bright star and followed it to worship Jesus. The Bible doesn't tell us how many wise men came to visit Jesus. There were three gifts, but that doesn't mean that there were three men. They fell down and worshipped Him. They opened their treasures and gave gifts to Jesus. They gave Him gold, frankincense and myrrh. They had asked King Herod if he knew of a new king. This was a shock to King Herod, to think that there may be a king who would replace him. He was jealous of the new king. He asked the wise men to find the king and tell him. But the wise men knew that Herod meant to do harm, so they did not tell him where Jesus was. They went home a different way, keeping well away from Herod and his men.

God is Lord and King

Week 3

God's love for the world

Focus

Believing and repenting

Bible references

John 3:16 God loved the world so much that He sent His Son.

Matthew 1:21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Matthew 3; Luke 3 The Baptism of Jesus

Introduction

Revise the story of the birth of John the Baptist. We are now going to move forward in time and look at John the Baptist as a man. He is about thirty years old. He is now doing the work that God called him to do: that is, to tell people to get ready for Jesus by changing their hearts and lives.

Read about John the Baptist from the Matthew 3:1-6.

Now ask students to make a drawing of John the Baptist from the description given in the Bible. Start with the outline of a man and gradually add to it.

What were John's clothes made from?

What did he wear around his waist?

What do you think his hair would have looked like?

Do you think he would have had a beard?

Where was he preaching? (Draw the background).

What did he eat for food? (Draw bees and locusts).

Was there a river nearby?

Discussion

What was John's message?

People were baptised as a sign that they wanted to change, and turn to God. Going under the water was a sign that their sins were washed away and that they had accepted God's forgiveness. Just as water makes things clean, God can make our hearts clean.

What did the people have to do before they were baptised? (Matthew 3:5-6)

Did the people who were baptised believe in Jesus? (Luke 3:15-16)

Why do you think some people believed in Jesus even though they had never seen Him?

Some people came to be baptised without being sorry for their sins, and without believing that Jesus was the Son of God. These people were the Pharisees. What did John say to them? (Matthew 3:7-8).

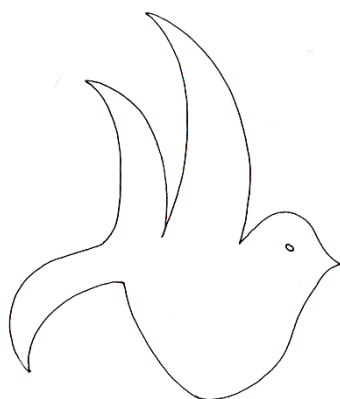
Do you think John would have baptised these people?

Read about the baptism of Jesus. (Matthew 3:13-17)
How did John feel when Jesus asked to be baptised?

Why did he feel like this?

How could the people be sure that the One they had been waiting for was finally here with them? (Matthew 3: 16-17)

What was the purpose of Jesus coming to earth? (John 3:16)



Art/Craft

Draw a dove and cut it out. Make a stained-glass window. Use thick black paper and blue cellophane. Cut out a white dove using this stencil, and glue it in the centre of the cellophane.

The dove was a sign from God that it was now time for Jesus to do His work on earth. The dove was also a sign of God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 3:16-17)