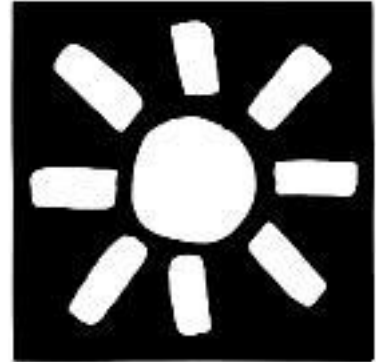


Year 4

God is Creator 5 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God created the universe in six days
- God created the world for humans to enjoy and care for
- We have a responsibility to care for God's creation
- God created plants to provide for us
- We should thank God for all that he has provided for us

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Living things; caring for animals; animal extinction; caring for the earth

Link between "God is Creator" and classroom topics:

God has put human beings in charge of His creation. We have a responsibility to care for the earth, for plants, animals and other human beings.

Values

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

Biography:

Maitaka (Pacific Island Stories)

God is Creator

Week 1

God created us with the ability to make choices.

Bible references

Genesis 1 The six days of creation.

Genesis 1:26-30 God created human beings in His image. He placed them above other created things. He asked human beings to care for the created world.

Genesis 2 The creation of human beings; God's instructions about the tree of Good and Evil.

Genesis 2:19-20 God gave Adam the responsible task of naming the animals.

Psalm 8:4-6 God created man to rule over the creation

Bible lesson: The seven days of Creation.

Read or tell the story from Genesis 1.

Discussion

Revise the sequence of events in the seven days of Creation.

On the sixth day God created land animals and man.

Why was man special? (Read Genesis 1:26-30)

God said that He would make man in His image. Just as God can think, choose, decide and create, so can we. By placing people in charge of the plants and animals, God was giving them an opportunity to make choices and decisions. One of Adam's first jobs was to choose names for all the animals. Read about this in Genesis 2:19-20.

Story: Adam names the animals

The children sat outside with Grandpa on a clear, starry night. They loved to go camping with Grandpa. They especially loved these times when they were allowed to stay up a little later than usual. They would cook food over the fire. Then Grandpa would tell a story.

"Twit-twoo," they heard from the bush.

"That's a barn owl," said Grandpa. "Listen carefully and you might hear some other night animals. The bush is very active at night you know. Many animals are awake at night time."

The children all listened carefully.

"How did the animals get their names anyway?" asked one of the children.

"Well," said Grandpa. "I'll tell you the story. It's a very old story actually. It's as old as the Creation itself."

"After God made the world," went on Grandpa, "He made a man called Adam. One of the first things God asked Adam to do was to give names to all the animals...not just the land animals but the birds and fish as well. God did this because He wanted Adam to know that animals were created to help humans. Some animals were tame and some were wild, but whether

tame or wild, Adam was to take care of them. God wanted Adam to name the animals so that he would get to know them, and also, so that he would realise his responsibility in taking care of them.

It must have been fun for Adam to think up names for the animals. Just imagine! 'That one with the long neck... I'll call him a giraffe... and what could I call that funny animal that looks a bit like a duck and a bit like a beaver. I'll have to call him a platypus... and that friendly one...I think he would like to be my special friend. I'll call him a dog.'

Adam spent a long time naming the animals. He remembered what God had told him: "You shall rule over all the animals of the earth."

Adam knew what God meant. He was to look after all the animals. He was to be God's caretaker. What a responsible job that was. Adam felt happy that God had given him the ability to make choices and decisions.

Discussion

God created the animals so that we could enjoy them. Some animals provide for us. Some animals are just good friends. God wants us to take care of all the animals in His creation.

1. We should remember that when God first created the animals, there was no killing, because sin had not yet entered the world. Adam, Eve and all the animals ate only plants. Write the bible verses that tell us this. (Genesis 1:29-30).
2. Read Genesis 2:19-20. Which verse tells us that Adam named the animals?
3. Make a list of some of the choices and decisions that Adam had to make, (e.g. He could choose right from wrong; to obey or disobey God.)
4. What did God mean when He said that people would rule over the animals?
5. Give some examples of ways in which people can take care of God's creation, including animals.
6. Name two animals that are endangered today, and explain why they are endangered.
7. How can we take good care of our pets?

God is Creator

Week 2

Wrong choices

Bible references

Genesis 3 The Fall

Genesis 4 Cain and Abel

Introduction

Place on a tray a collection of objects, e.g. coloured pencils, toys, some books. Ask a few children to come and make a CHOICE. Ask the children whether it was hard to choose.

Explain

God could have created Adam and Eve like robots. He could have made them to think and act exactly as HE wanted them to. However, God did not do this. He gave them a mind to think with. He gave them the ability to make decisions for themselves. He gave them a conscience too, so that they would know the difference between right and wrong.

The problem came when Adam and Eve did not listen to their consciences. They knew the right thing to do. They knew that God had forbidden them to eat a certain kind of fruit, but they chose to disobey.

Bible Lesson: Wrong choices

The first wrong choice:

Read or tell the story from Genesis 3:1-14 and 21-24.

Adam and Eve chose to disobey, and the children born to them disobeyed God as well.

Another wrong choice:

Adam and Eve had two sons. They called their first son Cain, and the second one, Abel. When the boys grew up they helped their parents to grow food and look after the animals. Cain became a farmer. He grew grain and fruit and vegetables. Abel became a shepherd.

It was the custom in those days to bring an offering once a year to say 'thank you' to God for providing everything they needed. They built a special table called an altar, and placed upon it their gifts to God. Abel brought a lamb, and Cain brought some of the produce that he had grown.

God was happy with Abel's gift because Abel had chosen to love and obey God. God was not happy with Cain's gift because Cain did not love God. Cain chose evil. He knew in his heart that God was not happy with him. He also knew that God was happy with Abel. Cain became angry and jealous. He was jealous of his brother who always was a good man, and he knew that God was pleased with him.

One day when Cain and Abel were alone in the field, Cain suddenly rose up and killed his brother. God saw what he did.

Soon God came to Cain. "Where is your brother?" he asked.

"I don't know," replied Cain. "Am I supposed to take care of my brother?"

"I saw what you did Cain," said God. "Because of your sin the ground will not give you good food to eat. And I will send you away from your father's house and from your family. You shall wander around the earth without a home."

So Cain had to go far away from his father and mother. He was never really happy again, because he hated his brother and had killed him.

God created us to choose for ourselves

When God created people, He gave them the ability to think and choose for themselves. He wanted people to be responsible, and to make good choices. One of the first things Adam had to do was to name the animals. He had to choose names for them. The next choice was a bit more difficult. Adam and Eve had to choose between good and evil. That is, between obeying God or disobeying God. I wonder what choice we would have made. Because of one wrong choice, the whole of creation suffered. People made more and more wrong choices.

Cain's first wrong choice, to hate his brother, was just one of many more to follow. Cain made many wrong choices. It seemed that one wrong choice led to another. Firstly, he ignored God's ways. Then he allowed jealousy to grow in his heart. This finally made him kill his brother. The next step was lying to God.

Questions

1. Who was the first baby boy ever born?
2. Why was Cain jealous of Abel?
3. What did Cain say to God after he killed Abel?
4. Was this the truth?
5. What was the punishment?
6. What was Cain's first wrong choice?
7. How did it lead to other wrong choices?
8. What would you say if someone asked you to do something you knew was wrong?
9. Think of some of the choices we have to make in life. Name some good choices. Name some bad ones.

God is Creator

Week 3

Choosing to obey God

Bible references

Joshua 24 Choose this day whom you will serve.

Exodus 3-4 The choice to obey God was not easy for Moses.

Romans 1:20 God has made His eternal power and divine nature clear, so that we are without excuse. Everyone has a choice.

Romans 8:9-14 Live as God's Spirit tells you to live. (verse 9)

Galatians 6:7-10 A person will reap exactly what he plants... Let us not become tired of doing (choosing) good. (GNB)

Galatians 5:22-23 Choose to let the Fruit of the Spirit control your thoughts, words and actions

Introduction

We have to make choices and decisions every day. Some choices are easy to make. Others are not so easy.

Do you sometimes find it difficult to choose what to wear?

If you were allowed to choose one toy for your birthday, would you find it difficult?

Do you find it difficult to choose what to eat when you go to a restaurant?

There are other sorts of choices too. If a group of children are saying unkind words about someone in the playground, you can choose to join in, or not to join in. If someone in the playground is lonely you can choose to make friends with that person, or to ignore them.

In these sorts of choices we should ask ourselves, "What would Jesus choose?"

When Jesus lived on earth He always obeyed His Heavenly Father. When we ask Jesus to be in charge of our life, He helps us to choose what is right.

Adam and Eve knew the right thing to do but disobeyed. Cain knew right from wrong too, but he also chose to do the opposite to what his conscience told him. Today, people keep on choosing to do wrong things. This is why all people need God's forgiveness. There were many people in Bible times who did obey God, just as there are many people today who obey God. Moses was one of these people.

Revision: Moses obeys God's call.

Revise God's special plan for Moses, covered in Weeks 1-5.

What was this plan? (Exodus 3:1-10)

Was it easy to obey God's command? (Exodus 3:11 & Exodus 4:19)

Moses did obey, even though it was very difficult for him. God gave Moses many signs to let him know that the Lord was with him. Because Moses obeyed, God was able to use him to set the Israelites free.

Can you think of times when it may be difficult for us to obey God?

Joshua asks the people to choose

Moses continued to be faithful in obeying God. He led God's people to the Promised Land. However, it was Joshua who took the people into the Promised Land. There were enemies that had to be conquered first, and God chose Joshua to lead the Israelite army into battle against the enemies. When the enemies had been conquered God told Joshua that he could rest. Joshua was an old man by this time.

There were twelve Israelite tribes. These were large family groups. Three of the tribes were already settled on the land on the other side of the River Jordan. Nine tribes still needed a place to make their home. God told Joshua to divide the land among the nine tribes. When all the land was divided, Joshua called the tribes together. Now that his work was finished, Joshua had some final instructions for the people. He wanted to remind the people that they must always worship the true God. The Israelites were going to be living in a land where people around them worshipped false gods. Several times before, the Israelites had fallen into the trap of worshipping false gods. Joshua told the Israelites that they must make the choice now. Would they choose to serve the Lord?

Read about this in Joshua 24:14-27.

Think

Adam, Eve, Cain, Moses and the Israelites were all faced with choices. Try to think of some choices that people could be faced with today in everyday life.

EXAMPLES: to forgive or not to forgive; to be honest or dishonest.

Activity 1: Decode these Bible messages:

Vowels a= ■ e= ◆ i= + o= ● u= ◆

Message no. 1:

L+VE ■ L+F◆ TH■T +S PL◆ ■ S+NG T● G●D (Romans 8:9)

Message no. 2:

CH●●S◆ TH+S D■Y WH●M Y●◆ W+LL S◆RV◆ (Joshua 24:15)

Activity 2: Make a large fruit tree from cardboard. Place nine fruits on the tree. Read the list of 'Fruits of the Spirit' (Galatians 5:22-23). Label the fruits. Ask students to think of an opposite word for each Fruit of the Spirit. Explain that we can choose the Fruit of the Spirit or the opposite.

God is Creator

Week 4

Choosing to care for God's world

Bible references

Psalm 65:9-13 (Good News Bible)

Genesis 2:15 God's command to care for the earth

Bible lesson: Psalm 65:8-13

Read through the Psalm, then read it again making a list of all the things that God provides:

Verses 8-11 Rain to make the plants grow; fertile soil; streams of water

Verses 12-13 Pastures for flocks of sheep on the hills; crops of wheat

Also read Genesis 2:15. God told Adam to look after the Garden of Eden, and to eat the food that grew in the garden. Christians believe that God still requires us to care for the earth, and make sure that we protect the land, so that it can grow food for everyone. This is being good stewards of the earth. In Fiji we are blessed with plenty of rain and sunshine as well as good soil. However in some countries there is drought, and poor soils. There are organizations that help people in need of food. These organizations rely on people to give money to help those in need. This is what God wants us to do: to share with those who do not have enough.

Recycle, Re-use, Reduce

Let's think about how we can be good stewards of the earth.

Recycle means to use something to make something else and not to throw it away. For example, the bags we bring home from the supermarket can be recycled by using them for rubbish bags.

Re-use means to keep using something as long as we can and not to throw it away when it is no longer shiny and new. Sometimes something that is too worn out to use for its original purpose can be recycled and used for something else. (See the story below.)

Reduce means not to use any more that we have to. For example, when we brush our teeth, we often let the water keep running in the tap. That's wasting water. We should wet the toothbrush, then turn off the tap.

(Ask the children for other ideas.)

Story: 500 New Garments

This is a story from Thailand

Ananda was in charge of a Buddhist monastery. That's where men trained to become priests. They were very poor. King Udyana gave Ananda 500 new garments for the men in the monastery, because their clothes were worn out.

King Udyana asked, "What will you do with the old garments?"

Ananda replied, "We will make bed covers out of them."

The king asked, "What will you do with the old bed covers?"

"We will make pillow cases," Ananda replied.

"And what will you do with the old pillow cases?" asked the king.

"We will make floor mats out of them," said Ananda.

"And what will you do with the old floor mats?" asked the king.

"We will use them for wiping cloths," said Ananda.

"And what will you do with the old wiping cloths?" asked the king.

We will use them for floor mops," said Ananda.

"And what will you do with the old floor mops?" asked the king.

"We will tear them into pieces and mix them with mud and use the mud to plaster the walls of our house," replied Ananda.

Discuss

Things that can be re-used, e.g. vegetable peelings for compost

Ask for ideas for using the following: jars, old clothes, newspapers, plastic bags, metal cans.

Activity

Ask the children to work in groups to create a picture of Psalm 65:9-13. Each group can choose a leader who can make final decisions on who does what. As well as coloured felt pens you could provide collage materials such as coloured paper, cotton wool for sheep, and actual plants.

God is Creator

Week 5

Choosing to care for myself and others

Bible reference

Mark 12:31 Love your neighbour as yourself

Mark 12:28-31 The Good Samaritan

Introduction

Over the past four weeks we have been talking about caring for God's creation. We have talked about caring for the environment, for plants and for animals, but we have not thought about caring for people. People are the most important part of God's creation. Why is this so?

Bible lesson: Love your neighbour as yourself

Read Mark 12:28-31

What does it mean to love yourself?

It doesn't mean to boast and tell everyone how good you are. It doesn't mean to think that you are the greatest. But it does mean to be thankful for the gifts God has given to you, and not to complain about the way God has made you. It also means that we should take care of our bodies. How can we do this?

God also wants us to care about other people. Jesus told a story to help us understand how to help others.

The Good Samaritan

One day Jesus was teaching the people. A certain lawyer was listening and stood up and asked, "Teacher, what must I do to go to heaven?"

Jesus answered, "What does the Bible tell you to do?"

The lawyer answered, "The Bible tells us to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself."

"That is right," Jesus said.

"But who is my neighbour?" the man asked.

Jesus decided to answer this question with a parable to help everyone who was listening understand. Jesus said: There once was a Jewish man walking along a road. He was coming from Jerusalem and was heading to Jericho, which was a full day or two of walking.

The road was rocky and there were small hills all around. Suddenly a group of men jumped out from behind a hill. They took all the Jewish man's belongings and tore off most of his clothes. They didn't want him to follow them so they beat him up very badly, and left him lying and bleeding on the side of the road.

A few minutes later a priest was walking down the same path and noticed the man lying on the side of the road. Do you know what he did? You'd think he would run over and help the man. Instead he crossed the road and walked on the other side and acted like he didn't see the man.

About an hour or so later another man called a Levite was walking down the road. Levites were people who assisted priests with their work. You would think that he would probably help the man. But no, he didn't. He slowed down and walked a little closer to the man, but then kept walking without helping him at all.

You might be thinking that maybe the man lying by the side of the road looked like he was resting or something, that's why the priest and the Levite didn't stop to help. No, it was easy to tell he was badly hurt. The man was bleeding, had most of his clothes ripped off him, and he was bruised and hardly breathing.

Just a few minutes later another man came walking past. He was a Samaritan. One thing you should know about Samaritans is that Jews didn't like them. Jews usually didn't treat Samaritans very well, so they never got along. The man who was dying on the road was a Jew. So what do you think the Samaritan did? You'd think he would walk by and maybe even laugh at the man.

But as soon as he saw the man he went over to him and felt compassion for him. He put bandages on his sores and poured expensive oil and wine on the sores to prevent them from getting worse. Then he lifted the man onto his own donkey and took him to a hotel to take care of him.

The next day the Samaritan gave the hotelkeeper enough money so the man could stay at the hotel until he was well enough to leave. He asked the hotelkeeper to make sure that the man was looked after, and if there was any further cost he would come back and pay.

After Jesus finished the story he asked, "Which of the three men do you think was a neighbour to the man who was left beaten on the side of the road?"

The man who asked him the question at the beginning replied, "The one who had compassion and helped him." Jesus told him, "Go and do the same."

Discussion

The Good Samaritan had a choice to help, or not to help, but he chose to help the man. We are going to think about times when we can choose to help another person.

What would you do if...

Mum or Dad needed help at home?

You noticed that one of your friends looked sad?

You saw your pet cat or dog looking hungry or hurt?

You saw that Mum's plants were looking as if they needed water?

You knew that your Grandma was sick in bed?

(Ask the children to identify who or what needs care in each situation.)

Caring for all of God's creation (including people)

Read out the following sentences and ask the children if they can guess what the last word in the sentence could be:

1. I treat others, myself and the earth with (care).
2. I look at people and listen closely to what they are (saying).
3. I handle my own things and other people's things (carefully).
4. I am gentle and loving when I am looking after my (e.g. little sister).
5. I treat my body with (respect).
6. When I do my school work I always try my (best).
7. When I know that someone needs help I stop playing and (help).