

Bible Lessons Year 1



God is Love 5 weeks

Outcomes:

At the completion of the module students will understand that:

- God loves them and everyone is special to God
- God knows everything about us because He made us
- God knows our names.
- School is a place where we can feel loved and accepted
- School is a place where we can enjoy meeting many new friends
- Names are important, and knowing people's names is an important way of getting to know them.
- We can be called by our 'given' name or our 'pet' name.
- Everyone has a first name and a last name.
- At school we call our teachers Mr., Mrs., or Miss, followed by their last name.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Myself: my body, my interests, my family

Link between "God is Love" and classroom topics:

God shows His love to me and my family by providing for my needs. He has made me special and loves me exactly the way I am. God knows my name and everything about me. God wants me to look after my body because He has made me.

Values

Compassion; Cultural understanding, empathy and tolerance; Sense of family and community

Other related values: appreciation for God's gift of life

God is Love

Week 1

Who is Jesus? Who is God?

Bible reference: Luke 2:1-20

Introduction:

Play a game that will enable children to say their name,
e.g. Roll the Ball

Children sit in a circle, (or you can go outside and ask them to stand in a circle).

Teacher starts: My name is and I'm rolling the ball to (the child says their name as they catch the ball.)

Child says: My name is and I'm rolling the ball to etc.

OR

Throw a ball to one child in the circle while you say:

Teacher sings: "Bee, bee, bumble bee, can you say your name to me?"

When the child catches the ball he/she says:

"My name is"

Bible lesson

In our Scripture class this year we will be talking a lot about Jesus and God. We learn about Jesus and God through His special book called the Bible. (Show a Bible)

Who is God?

God is invisible but He is very powerful. He made the world and all the beautiful things in our world. He made you! God lives in a place called Heaven, but He can still be with us even though we can't see Him.

A long time ago God sent His son Jesus to live on earth for a while. (Show a picture of Jesus). Jesus showed us what God is like. Jesus helped many people. He helped sick people and sad people. His friends wrote all that Jesus did in this book, the Bible. Then Jesus went back to Heaven to be with His Father God.

God and Jesus are really the same person. God and Jesus love us all very much and they care for us.

The Birth of Jesus

Here is the true story about the time when God sent Jesus into the world.

A long time ago, in a land called Israel on the other side of the world, lived a young woman named Mary. Mary loved God very much. She was going to be married to Joseph.

One day, while Mary was at home cleaning her room, an angel came to her. The angel told Mary that God had something special for her to do.

Mary was surprised. She was trying not to be afraid, but she had never seen an angel before.

The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid! You will have a baby boy, and are to give him the name Jesus, and your baby will be the Son of God."

Mary was very surprised but she knew that the angel was from God. She said, "I will do whatever God wants me to do."

The angel then disappeared, and Mary was left alone.

Soon after, Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby. An angel also came to Joseph, this time in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child Mary is going to have is God's Son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."

When Joseph woke up he remembered what the angel had said. He knew that everything would happen just as the angel had said.

In those days the government decided that they should count everyone that lived in that area of the world. So Joseph had to take Mary to his town, Bethlehem to be counted.

It took Mary and Joseph a long time to get to Bethlehem. They didn't have cars back then. Mary rode on a donkey while Joseph walked. It took them a lot longer to get there.

When they reached the town, there was nowhere they could stay. Finally, someone found them a place to stay. It was in a shed called a stable, where the animals slept.

Mary and Joseph were thankful that they at least had a place to lie down. It was warm, and there was plenty of straw to lie on.

That night an exciting, wonderful thing happened. Mary and Joseph had a baby! But it wasn't just any baby, it was baby Jesus! Jesus was the son of the One who made the world.

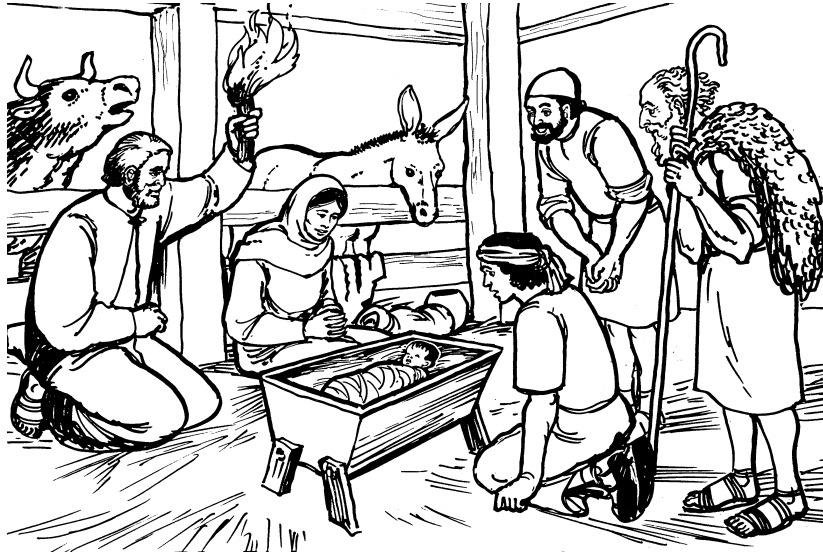
The little baby boy fell asleep in Mary's arms and she wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger on some clean straw.

Mary and Joseph soon fell asleep, they were so glad to have this special baby join their family. Jesus lived with Mary and Joseph and his brothers and sisters until he grew up to be a man. Then He traveled about with some special friends helping many people and teaching people about God, His Father in heaven, who loves everyone in the whole world.

Questions:

- Who is God?

- Why did God send Jesus into the world? (Ans: To show us how much God the Father loves us.)
- Where was Jesus born? (Ans: in a land a long way from here; in a shed called a stable)
- What were the names of Jesus' Mum and Dad when He lived in the world?
- Who is Jesus?



God is Love

Week 2

God loves me and knows all about me

Bible References

- Jesus said, "Do not be afraid, God cares for you more than the birds." Luke 12:6-7
- Matthew 10:29-30 Not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father's consent. Even the hairs on your head have been counted. (GNB)
- Matthew 6:25-34 Look at the birds. They do not plant seeds and gather crops and put them in barns. Yet your Father in heaven takes care of them. You are worth much more than the birds. (GNB)

Bible lesson

Jesus teaches about the way our Heavenly Father cares for us. Tell the story from Matthew 6:25-34, or read the following:

Do not worry

"Look! Jesus is coming! Here is Jesus in our town!"

The people came out of their houses to see Jesus. They loved hearing Jesus teach about God, their Heavenly Father.

Jesus went up on a hill and sat on the grass. The people followed him. They sat on the grass too, ready to listen.

This is what Jesus said:

"Look at the birds. Do they have barns to store their food? No, God feeds them.

And look at the flowers. Their petals are like beautiful clothes. But they do not have to work to make clothes for themselves. God dresses them in beautiful clothes, more beautiful than a king's royal robes.

You are more important than the birds.

You are more important than the flowers.

So do not worry.

If God takes care of them, He will take care of you.

Discussion

Use books to discuss various kinds of birds and their young. Discuss feeding, nesting and caring for young.

A true story: The Baby Birds

This story is not from the Bible, but took place in modern times, in Australia.

In the roof of Grandma's house was a nest. A mother bird had built the nest, high up, away from danger. In the nest were four blue eggs. Mother bird sat on the eggs. She waited and waited. At last, four chirping baby birds hatched out of the eggs.

Now mother bird often stayed away from the nest to collect food for her babies. She would bring worms back to the nest and pop them into the little open beaks. One day, Tim came to visit Grandma. Tim was sometimes naughty. Today he felt like being particularly naughty. Tim saw the nest in the roof. Tim also saw a long, long stick resting against the shed wall.

"I know what I'll do," he thought. "I'll get that long, long stick and give the nest a poke."
Tim held the end of the stick very carefully.

"Yes, I can reach it," he said.

He gave the nest a little poke...then a bigger one. Down, down, down came the nest.

"Cheep, cheep, cheep," went the little birds.

Tim couldn't bear to look at the nest, now on the ground. He ran away crying. He knew he had been very naughty.

"What's the matter, Tim?" asked Grandma. "Why are you crying?"

"It's the baby birds," cried Tim. "They've fallen from the roof."

"How did they fall?" asked Grandma.

Tim just kept crying. Grandma went to have a look at the birds and saw the stick nearby.

"Did you knock the birds down with that stick, Tim?" asked Grandma.

Tim could not tell a lie.

"I did," he said, "and now all the baby birds will be dead."

"Come and have a look, Tim," said Grandma.

Tim counted the birds1..2..3..4., and each bird was cheeping loudly.

"God has protected them all," said Grandma. "Do you know that God cares for birds and knows about it when they fall from their nest? Just think about how much He loves us. He knows exactly how many hairs are on your head, Tim.," said Grandma.

"I'm so glad that the babies are still alive," said Tim. "But now their nest is ruined."

Grandma saw an old flower-pot in the garden shed.

"Why don't we make a little nest from this, Tim? We'll put it on the roof, exactly where the old nest was."

Tim and Grandma set to work, making a cosy nest from straw and cotton wool. They carefully placed the birds in the new nest and put it gently in position on the roof.

"I don't think the mother will come back to feed the babies now that she knows humans have touched the nest," said Tim sadly.

"Let's wait and see," said Grandma.

They waited.

Before long, the mother bird did come back. In her beak she was carrying a little bunch of worms. Into each little open beak she popped a piece of worm. Tim was very happy.

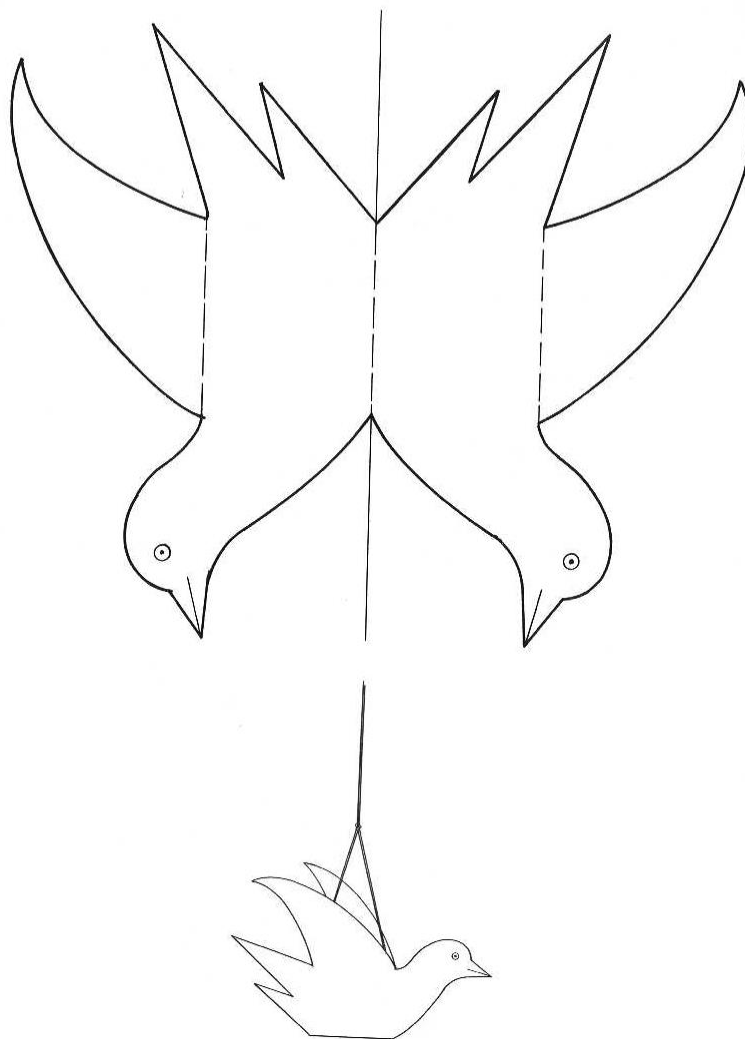
"God really does look after all his creatures," he thought. "I know He cares for me too."

Questions

How do we know that God loves us?
How many hairs on your head?
Does God know how many hairs on your head?
Does God love you and care for you?

Activity

Make a bird mobile using activity sheet. Decorate it with pieces of pre-cut paper to represent feathers. Attach string.



God is Love

Week 3

Jesus knows my name.

Bible references:

Nathanael John 1:43 – 49

Psalm 139: I am special to God

Bible lesson:

When it was time for Jesus to start His special work on earth, he chose twelve friends to help him. These friends were called the disciples. They traveled around with Jesus and learned as Jesus taught them about God. They watched Jesus do miracles, like healing sick people.

When Jesus first called the disciples, he called them one by one. Peter, James, Andrew and John were fishermen. They left their fishing nets and followed Jesus. Matthew was a tax collector. He left his job of collecting money, and followed Jesus.

Another person to follow Jesus was Philip. He had a friend called Nathanael. When Philip found out how wonderful Jesus was, he went to Nathanael and said, “You must come and see Jesus!”

Nathanael said, “How can anyone so special come from a little town like Nazareth? (That was the town where Jesus lived). But Philip talked Nathanael into coming to see Jesus.

Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him. Jesus said, “Nathanael, I know you are a kind man.”

Nathanael was surprised.

“How do you know my name, and know all about me?” he asked.

Jesus said, “Before Philip told you about me, I saw you sitting under the fig tree. (Figs are fruits that grow on trees in the land of Israel.)

Jesus knew about Nathanael before he met him, because Jesus knows all about everyone. He knows all about you. He even knows how many hairs are on your head!

Discussion

Names are important to Jesus.

Tell the person next to you the names of all the people in your family.

Tell the person next to you if you have a special name that your family calls you by. This might be a 'pet' name which is not your real name.

Do you know what your name means?

For children who know the meaning of their name, ask them to come out the front. They can write their name on the board and tell the class the meaning.

Questions

Jesus knew Nathanael's name before He met Nathanael, and no one had told Jesus Nathanael's name. How did Jesus know Nathanael's name?

Where was Nathanael sitting?

Does Jesus know your name?

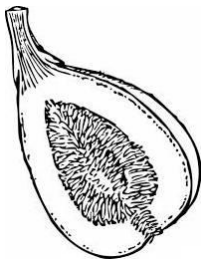
Activity 1

Each child can write their name on a piece of card and decorate it.

If children cannot yet write their name they can copy it or trace over a lightly pencilled name.

Activity 2

Children can draw Nathanael under the fig tree.



God is Love

Week 4

God calls us by name

Bible References

Luke 19:1-9 Zacchaeus the tax collector. (Jesus searches out those who are lost.)
Psalm 139 God knows all about us.

Focus

God knows all about us and knows our name. He forgives us for the things we do wrong. He wants us to love Him.

Bible lesson: Zacchaeus

Zacchaeus was sad. He wanted friends. But no one wanted to be his friend.

Zacchaeus collected the money that people had to pay to the government. He was a tax collector. But he collected more than he should have and kept the extra money for himself.

“Zacchaeus cheats,” some people said. “Zacchaeus steals,” they said.

Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus was coming to his town.

“I want Jesus to be my friend,” he said.

The people laughed. “Jesus is a good man,” they said. “He will not want to be your friend.”

There were people all around Jesus.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. But Zacchaeus was a little man. He could not get through the crowds to see Jesus.

“I will climb that big tree and see Jesus,” he said.

So Zacchaeus climbed the big tree.

Jesus stopped under the tree and looked up. He saw Zacchaeus.

“Zacchaeus, come down,” said Jesus. “I want to go to your house.”

“How did Jesus know my name?” thought Zacchaeus.

Discussion

What is a tax collector?

How did Zacchaeus become rich?

What is stealing?

Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he did bad things. When Zacchaeus decided not to do the bad things anymore, Jesus said, “I forgive you.” What does that mean?

How do we know that Jesus forgave Zacchaeus?

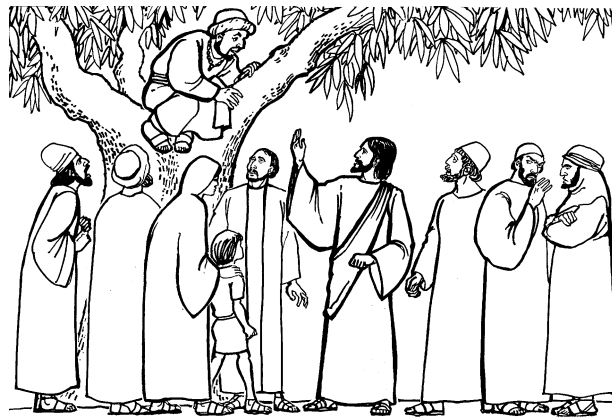
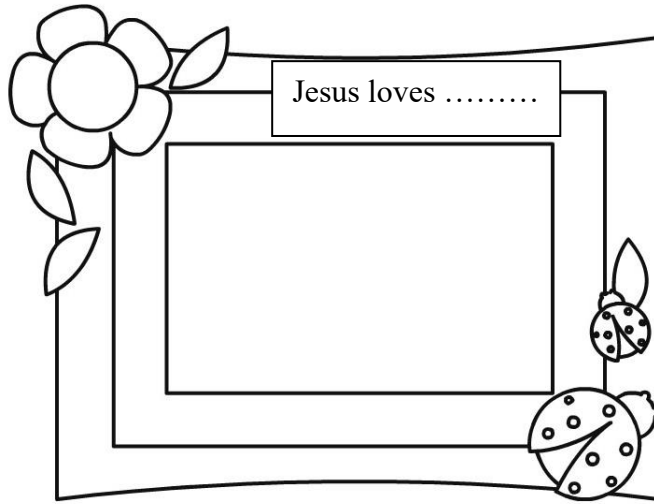
Did Zacchaeus change when he met Jesus?

What do you think Jesus and Zacchaeus talked about when they went to the house of Zacchaeus?

Jesus called Zacchaeus by name. Do you think that Jesus knows your name?

Activity

Children can draw a picture of themselves inside a decorated paper frame. Write on the frame:
Jesus loves (name)



God is Love

Week 5

Talking to God

Bible reference

Matthew 6:9-14 The Lord's Prayer

God is a person who loves us. He wants us to talk to Him.

When you love someone, you want to talk to them and they want to talk to you.

It's like that with God. He loves you and wants you to talk to Him.

Whose Mum or Dad has a phone?

Why is it good to have a phone?

You can talk to people who are important to you whenever you want to.

How do we talk to God?

Talking to God is called prayer. We just tell God the things that are important to us. Maybe we are afraid about something. Maybe someone we know is sick. Maybe we are sorry for something we've done. God knows and cares about everything. When we pray we can also say "thank you" to Jesus for all the things He has done for us.

How to pray

We can begin our prayer by saying "Dear God", or "Dear Jesus", then we tell Him the things we want to tell Him. We do not have to pray out loud, although we can. When you are on your own you can pray in your thoughts.

We can close our eyes when we pray, so that we can think just about you and God and nothing else.

Jesus said we can call God "Our Father" because God is like a Father who looks after us all the time.

Jesus said, "When you pray, say, Our Father who lives in Heaven. We honour your name."

The name of Jesus and God are to be honoured. That means their names are very important and we must not use these names as a swear word. We must only use their names when we are talking to God.

Prayer

Ask for some suggestions of things we can pray for as a class.

Ask children to close their eyes and have a time of prayer.

Activity: Write "Thank you Jesus" on a piece of paper, one for each child. Ask them to trace over the letters and draw on the page the things they want to say thank you for.