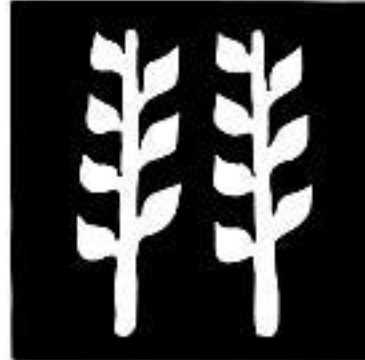


# Year 4

## God is Provider 5 Weeks



### **Outcomes:**

At the completion of the module students will understand that:

- God has created us with unique abilities and He wants us to be thankful to Him for the way He has made us.
- We are responsible for the gifts God has given us.
- We are thankful to God for sending His son Jesus.
- We thank God for what He has provided for us and what He has done for us.
- We thank God even when we don't feel like it.
- We can express our thanks through prayer and song.
- We give praise to God for who He is.

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

Water; the water cycle; how water gets to our homes; drinking water for health; washing and cleanliness; water content of our bodies; rivers and seas; communities living near rivers or sea

### **Link between “God is Provider” and classroom topics:**

All living things depend on water. God has provided our planet with water for life.

### **Values:**

Faith, care for the environment, responsibility, generosity, thankfulness

### **Biography:**

Makea of Rarotonga

# God is Provider

## Week 1 Thank you God for the gifts you have given me.

### Bible references

Matthew 25:14-30 The talents

Luke 16:10 Be faithful in little things.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Psalms 139 We are wonderfully made.

### Introduction

Let's think of all the things that God has provided for us.

Which special gifts does God provide for us through His creation?

Which special ability gifts has God given to people in their own lives? (These are things we can do.)

Make two lists: Creation gifts; ability gifts

### Discussion

If we receive a gift, what should we do? (We say thank you to the person who gave us the gift.)

How can we show God that we are thankful for all that He has given to us?

- Say thank you by praying and singing to Him.
- Say 'grace' before our meals.
- Be thankful in our attitude, by not grumbling or complaining about what we have.
- Be responsible with the gifts God has given us.

### Definition of thankfulness

Thankfulness is:

- Being grateful for what you have
- Having an attitude of gratitude towards God and other people
- Appreciating the little things which happen around you and within you every day.
- Looking at God's beautiful world with wonder and appreciation
- Knowing that God has given you special gifts and abilities and using these gifts and abilities to serve Him

How can we show thankfulness to other people?

- Show your appreciation when someone does something kind for you.

- Say thank you, and let them know how their kindness has helped you.
- We might want to make a 'thank you' card.

Saying 'please' and thank you' is showing good manners.

### **Bible lesson: The talents**

This story is called the Parable of the Talents. A parable is a type of story Jesus would tell so we would learn something from it.

A talent in this story can also mean our gifts or abilities. A talent is something special and amazing God gives just to you.

The parable starts like this: A man decided to go on a long trip, so he called his servants and asked them to take care of his house, his belongings and his money.

The man in this story trusted his servants and believed that they would take care of his special and valuable things.

The man decided to give one servant five talents of money. (Let's say that it's about five thousand dollars), to another he gave two talents (or two thousand dollars) and to the last servant he gave one talent (one thousand dollars). He gave each servant a large amount he thought they could handle or according to their ability.

Our abilities are our special gifts that God gave to each of us. We are not all equally good at everything. Some of us are good at memorizing, some of us are better at certain sports, and some of us are better at knowing how to help others. Some can solve problems better and some are more generous. Your ability is something special to you, and often different to the abilities of others.

In the story, the man who gave the servants the money expected them to do something good with the money.

The man with the five talents went right away and used his money and got five more! The man with the two talents also used his money wisely and gained two more talents.

But the man with one talent took his talent and buried it in the ground to keep the money safe. He didn't even try to do something with it.

After his long trip the master came back and wanted to know what his servants did with his money. The first man with the five talents said, "You trusted me with five talents and I made five more!"

His master smiled and replied, "Great job, good and faithful servant! You are trustworthy with what I gave you so I will put you in charge of lots of things. Come celebrate with me!"

Then the man with the two talents came and said, "You trusted me with two talents and I made two more!"

His master smiled and replied, "Great job, good and faithful servant! You are trustworthy with what I gave you so I will put you in charge of lots of things. Come celebrate with me!"

Then the man who received the one talent came and told his master, "I know you work hard for your money, so I was afraid to lose any of it. I decided to bury it and keep it safe. Here is your one talent back."

The master was not impressed and said, "You lazy servant! At the very least you could've taken the money to the bank and you would've at least collected some interest from it."

He immediately took the talent away from the man and gave it to the first man who used his money to make more.

### **Discussion**

The point Jesus was trying to make is that if you use your special gifts and abilities God will be pleased. With practice we can get even better at the things we are already good at. We can use these gifts to become better servants of Jesus.

If we have a chance to do something for God using our special gifts and talents, and we don't do it, we are not showing our gratefulness to God for the gifts He has given us.

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

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.

### **Make a list**

Of the things people might be good at, and how they could use these gifts for God.

EXAMPLES: singing, drawing, sport, reading, being friendly, cooking

### **Question**

Why is it wrong to say, "It's not fair God. I'm not good at *something*."?

**Activity**

Plan ways of using talents within the group to bring happiness to others, e.g. musical items, dance, showing friendship, preparing flowers, gifts, cards.

**Work with a partner**

Tell your partner what you could do for God.

**Game: Charades**

Each person must mime a talent. Others in the group try to guess what it is.

**Interview**

Invite a visitor... someone who has used their talents for God, e.g. Christian doctor, nurse or missionary. Conduct an interview with the visitor or ask them to give a short talk about their work.

# God is Provider

## Week 2 Thankyou God for sending your Son

### Bible references

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for his priceless gift! (Good News Translation)

Matthew 26:26-28 The Lord's Supper

### Bible lesson:

The night before Jesus died he shared a supper with his disciples. He did something special so that they would remember in times to come, why Jesus died.

Jesus thanked God for the bread and shared it with the disciples and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body which is given for you". Then he took a full cup, thanked God for it and said, "This is my blood, which will be poured out for many people so their sins may be forgiven." Then they all took a sip from the cup.

### Questions

- Where did this supper happen? (Answer: An upper room in Jerusalem around 2000 years ago, the night before Jesus died, and the night before Jesus was betrayed by Judas.)
- Who were present at the supper? (Answer: Jesus and His 12 disciples)
- What would happen later that night? (Answer: Jesus would be betrayed, denied, arrested, tried and crucified.)
- What do the bread and wine remind us of?
- Why did Jesus die?
- When did God plan that Jesus would come to earth?

Christians have celebrated this supper ever since this first supper with Jesus. Christian churches celebrate the Lord's Supper, where people take and eat a piece of bread, then drink wine or grape juice, to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. This is a time of saying 'thank you' to Jesus for dying for us and taking our sins.

Other names for the Lord's Supper are: Eucharist, Holy Communion, Mass and Breaking of Bread. It is a time for saying 'thank you' to God for the gift of Jesus.

### Discussion

Ask children if they have ever experienced a church service where the Lord's Supper has been celebrated.

**Prayer:** Write a prayer of thanks:

Thank you God for sending Jesus  
Thank you Jesus that you came  
Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross  
And therefore be forgiven when I call on your name.

# God is Provider

## Week 3 Thankyou God for all that you have done for me.

### Bible references

Luke 17 The one who said 'thank you'.

Psalm 150:2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

### Introduction

What do you say when someone gives you something special?

What do you say when someone does something for you that makes you feel happy?

What do you say when someone does something to show they love you?

### Bible lesson: The man who said thank you

Once there were ten very sad men. They were sad because they all had a terrible disease called leprosy. Leprosy was a terrible disease because there was no cure. The disease could be passed on to other people very easily. If someone had leprosy, they had to leave their town and go live with other people who had the disease. The leprosy would make their skin turn white and eventually they would lose their fingers and toes. The men were so so sad because no one could cure them.

One day they saw Jesus walking down the road on his way to Jerusalem. They couldn't come close to Jesus, but they called out to him, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us."

When Jesus saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." They did as Jesus told them and went to the priests. On their way to the priest, they were healed! All ten of them were healed! They were so excited. They didn't waste any time going back to their families.

But one of the men was different than all the rest. When he was healed, he was very excited, but he remembered to do something very important. He ran back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God, I'm healed!" He fell, face down, on the ground by Jesus' feet, and thanked Jesus for what he had done.

Jesus looked around and asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine men who were healed?" Jesus said to the man, "You may get up and go. Your faith has made you well."

### Discussion

How do you think Jesus felt when only one man came back and thanked him?

Why should we say thankyou?

What are some of the things that God does for us?

Is there anything special that God has done for you or your family?

How do we say thankyou to God?

Psalm 150:2 says "Praise God for his mighty acts." Acts are like actions. What were some of the acts that God did for the people of Israel in the Old Testament? Were the people always thankful? What were some acts that God did in the New Testament?

What are some of the things God does for us today? Do we remember to thank him?

## God is Provider

### Week 4 Giving thanks even when things don't go the right way

#### **Bible references:**

Acts 16:16-40 Paul and Silas in prison

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Ephesians 5:20 Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always.

#### **Bible lesson: Paul and Silas in jail**

When Jesus went back to heaven, the followers of Jesus did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They went everywhere telling people that because of Jesus we can be friends with God. Just as the leaders did not like Jesus, they did not like the followers of Jesus. It was hard being a Christian in these times.

Two of the followers, Paul and Silas were walking through the streets of Philippi in Macedonia which is now part of Greece. They saw a slave girl who seemed to be acting strange. The men that owned her made a lot of money from her because she did fortune telling.

The girl followed Paul shouting out that "These men are servants of the Most High God and they can tell us the way to God!" She shouted out in this way because the evil spirit inside her did not like Paul and Silas telling people about Jesus. She did this for days, shouting so loudly that Paul and Silas could not make themselves heard. One day Paul decided to do something about it.

Paul turned around and told the spirit that was in her to come out. The evil spirit in her went out, but her masters didn't like that because now she wouldn't be making all that money for them. She could only do fortune telling with the evil spirit inside her.

The masters dragged Paul and Silas into the marketplace to the government leaders. They told the judges that Paul and Silas had brought a lot of trouble to the city. They said that Paul and Silas were teaching customs that were against their laws.

The crowd was now angry. The judges tore off Silas and Paul's coats and commanded that they be beaten. Then Paul and Silas were thrown in prison. The jailer was told to keep them securely locked. He was to make sure they couldn't escape, so the jailer put them in an inner prison and put their feet in stocks. Stocks are planks of wood with holes where the feet went. They could certainly not escape from these.



But at midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing to God. The other prisoners were listening to them. Can you imagine being beaten, thrown in prison and then singing?

Suddenly, there was a great earthquake. The foundation of the prison shook and all the doors opened and the chains were free from everyone. The prison guard woke up and saw that the doors of the prison were opened up and he drew his sword and was going to kill himself. He knew that he would be put to death for letting the prisoners escape.

But Paul shouted out "Don't do that! No one has escaped. We are all here!" The guard called for a light and ran to Paul and Silas and asked: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They told him that first, he had to believe in Jesus. The guard believed, and then all his household too.

Within the hour that night, the guard and his household washed Paul and Silas' wounds and ALL his family were baptized. Paul and Silas went back to the guard's home to share a meal and to rejoice with the guard because his whole family believed in God.

### **Questions**

- Why did Paul and Silas tell people about Jesus?
- Why was it dangerous to tell people about Jesus in those times?
- Where were Paul and Silas?
- Why did the slave girl shout out?
- Why did Paul cast out the evil spirit?
- Why was the slave girl's master angry?
- Why do you think the crowd were angry too?
- What did the judge do?
- What did Paul and Silas do in prison?
- What happened during the night?
- Why was the prison guard afraid?
- What happened after Paul told him that no one had escaped?
- Why do you think everything turned out well in the end?

### **Discussion**

- When might it be hard to give praise and thanks to God?
- Can you think of a song of praise to God that you could sing when you are feeling sad or worried?
- What could you pray to God when you are having a hard time?

# God is Provider

## Week 5 Thanksgiving and praise to God

### **Bible references**

Acts 3:1-10 The lame man healed and gave praise to God

Psalm 147:7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; Sing praises on the harp to our God.

Psalm 107:1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 106:1 Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

### **Discussion: What is praise?**

We praise someone when they do something well. For example, we clap when someone performs well at a concert. It shows that we appreciate their performance. Imagine a concert with no applause. How would the performer feel?

We need to praise God too, for the great things He has done. It's more than just saying "thanks God" for sending rain, or for giving us food. It's saying, "God, You are wonderful! Everything you have made is beautiful. Lord, you are more powerful than anyone in the whole universe. God, you are great!"

Human beings owe all they have to God, and it is the right thing to express thanks and praise to Him.

When can we give praise and thanks to God?

- Anytime
- Before we eat
- Before we go to sleep at night
- In church
- Family prayer times
- When praying with other Christians

### **Bible lesson: The lame man praised God for his healing**

After Jesus had gone back to heaven, two of his friends, Peter and John, were going to the temple to pray one afternoon. They walked across the courtyard, through a gate called "The Beautiful Gate." At this gate outside the temple, they saw a lame man sitting on the ground. He had never been able to walk; and as he was very poor, his friends carried him every day to this place; and there he sat, hoping that some of those who went into the temple might take pity on him and give him a little money.

Peter and John stopped; and Peter said to the man, "Look at us!"

The lame man looked at Peter and John, thinking they were about to give him some money. But Peter said:

"Silver and gold have I none; but what I have I will give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!"

And Peter took hold of the lame man's right hand, and raised him up. At once the lame man felt a new power entering into his feet and ankle-bones. He leaped up, and stood upon his feet, and began to walk, as he had never done before in all his life. He walked up the steps with the two apostles, and went by their side into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

The people, who now saw him leaping up and running, knew him, for they had seen him every day sitting as a beggar at the Beautiful Gate; and every one was filled with wonder at the change which had come over him.

After worshipping and praising God in the temple, the man, still holding fast to Peter and John, went out with them through the Beautiful Gate into Solomon's Porch. And in a very few minutes a great crowd of people were drawn together to the place to see the man who had been made well, and to see also the two men who had healed him.

Then Peter stood up before the throng of people, and told the crowd about Jesus, who had died and rose again, and went back to heaven. But because of His power in the world today this man was healed.

### **Discussion**

How could Peter and John heal the lame man? (Not because of themselves, but through the power of Jesus.)

What did the man do, once he knew that it was the power of God that healed him?

What do you think he might have said?

What would the people have thought if Peter and John did not tell them about Jesus? (The people might have thought that Peter and John had magic powers.)

### **What would you say to someone if...**

...they thought that there were many beautiful things in the natural world but they got there over time by accident. (We would tell them that God is the one we must thank and praise because He is the creator.)

...they had a narrow escape from death or a near accident. (We would tell them that God is the one to be praised because He was looking after them.)