

Year 6

God is Pure and Holy 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

The Biblical symbolism of light and darkness standing for good and evil
God's instructions to "Walk in the Light"

- That Jesus is the light of the world
- That Christians can also be lights in a dark world
- That walking in the light is demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit
- That God wants us to have pure relationships with one another
- That repentance and forgiveness are necessary in order for broken relationships to be healed
- The meaning of reconciliation

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Light, shadows, spectrum, the eye

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

The Bible uses the symbols of light and darkness to represent good and evil, or purity and sin.

Values:

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

Biographies:

Ruatoka and Tungane (Pacific Island Stories)

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Week 1

Walk in the light

Christians should be lights to the world
We show that we are Christians by our actions.

Bible references

Ephesians 5:8-11 Live as children of the light

1 John 1:7 If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Deuteronomy 6:18 Do that which is right and good.

Galatians 5:22 Goodness is a fruit of the Spirit.

Romans 13:12 Put on the armour of light.

Philippians 4:8-9 Fill your minds with things that are true, noble, right and pure.

Matthew 5:14 Christians are a light to the world, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden

Introduction

Light a candle. Try to think of as many uses for a candle as you can.

The Bible says that a Christian can be like a light. What does this mean?

Bible research

Read 1 John 5:7. What does it mean to walk in the light?

Read Romans 13:12. What does the Bible mean when it speaks about darkness and light?

Read through the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:22.

Read Philippians 4:8-9. What does God want us to do?

Read Ephesians 5: 8-11 How can Christians be lights to the world?

Workbook activity

1. Draw a candle with a flame in the centre of a map of the world.
2. Colour the continents and seas. Name the continents.

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Week 2

Let your light shine

Bible references

Matthew 5:13-16 Christians as salt and light.

John 8:12 Jesus, the light of the world

Matthew 13:14-16 Some people have eyes that cannot 'see'.

Introduction

You will need: unsalted cracker biscuits and salt.

Ask for some volunteers to come and test eating a cracker biscuit.

Give the students a plain cracker biscuit that is not salty.

Now give everyone another cracker and sprinkle some salt on it.

Discuss the difference in taste.

Why do we add salt to our food?

Bible lesson

Read Matthew 5:13-16

When Jesus said that Christians are the salt of the earth, He really meant that Christians should be like a pleasant flavour. Just as people like to taste salty things, people will be interested in becoming Christians when they see God's love and joy in our lives.

What would happen to a candle if you light it and put it under a bowl?

Try this. The students will notice that the flame goes out.

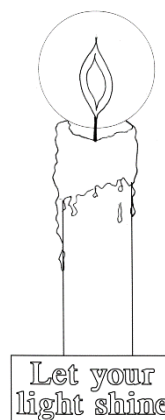
Discuss ways in which Christians can make their light shine.

Ans. We can be a good example; we can bring God's love and joy to other people. Make a list of ways we can let our light shine.

Who must we be connected to if we want our light to shine? Read John 8:12.

Read Matthew 13:14-16

How can people have eyes but not be able to 'see'? What is the meaning of 'see' in this case?



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Week 3

Live a life that is pure

Bible references

Matthew 6:22 Your eye is a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is good, your whole body is filled with light.

John 5:14 You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Galatians 5:19-23 The Fruit of the Spirit versus the works of darkness

Matthew 7:15-20 A tree is known by its fruit.

1 John 1:5-7 Walk in the light as He is in the light.

1 John 2:28-29 Everyone who does what is right is of God.

Introduction

Revise the nine fruits of the Spirit.

Guessing game:

Have the nine fruit of the spirit listed on the board or on a large sheet of paper, with letters missing, e.g. p _ t _ e _ _ _

Bible research

Read 1 John 2:29. If we say we are a Christian, how should we act?

Read 1 John 1:5-7. What does it mean to walk in the light?

Walking in the light can mean that we think before we act. If something goes wrong, do we act in a 'typical' way? Do we do or say the first thing that comes into our head? Or do we stop and think about how Jesus would handle the situation?

Discussion: How should we react?

Here are some examples of things that could happen in everyday life. We could react in a good way or in a bad way. Think about how we can show the fruits of the Spirit in these situations. Try to make up your own situations as well.

Simon has spent hours on building something. Little sister comes and pulls it apart while Simon is out of the room. How should Simon react?

- a) with anger; wanting to pay back; throwing a tantrum
- b) forgiving little sister; exercising self-control; accepting the situation without getting angry

A new girl has come into the class. She is very shy and doesn't look as if she would be much fun to play with. How should the girls in the class react?

- a) ignore her and play with old friends
- b) make friends with her and include her in your games

A shop keeper gives Lydia too much change. How should Lydia react?

- a) "Too bad for the shop keeper. I'm keeping the extra money."
- b) "I'd better take back the extra change."

Read Matthew 6:22. How does the eye provide light for the whole body? When we 'see' in a spiritual sense, our body is full of light. What does this mean? (We *understand* the words of Jesus and obey them, and live pure lives.)

Read and discuss Matthew 7:15-20

Discuss the difference between Galatians 5:19-20 and Galatians 5:22-23. (bad fruit/good fruit)

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Week 4

Purity in relationships

Bible references

James 4:1-3 Where do all the fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your desires for pleasure, which are constantly fighting within you. You want things, but you cannot have them, so you are ready to kill; you strongly desire things, but you cannot get them, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have what you want because you do not ask God for it. And when you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures. (GNB)

James 4:7 So then, submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. (GNB)

Ephesians 4:26 In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

Genesis 25:19 – Genesis 33 Jacob and Esau

Introduction

When two people are having an argument, how might they act?

e.g. angry faces, angry words, not talking to each other, staying away from one another

The word 'conflict' means a serious disagreement or argument, or violence between two people or two groups of people. They may have opposing ideas, feelings, opinions or wishes. They may be resentful and blame the other party for acting wrongly or unjustly towards them.

Bible study

Read James 4:1-2

What can be the root cause of arguments according to this passage?

In this group of people, what were the results of wanting everything for themselves?

What does it mean to have bad motives?

Now read verse 7. Is the devil completely responsible or do people have a part to play in causing arguments? How do we stop arguments from happening? Think about the Fruit of self-control in Galatians 5:22.

What do we do if we are angry with someone?

If we are angry with someone because they did something wrong, we can say so, but in a polite and respectful way. We don't speak rudely, or hit or punch or fight, but we say politely that we think that what the person did was not right.

Read Ephesians 4:26. This verse tells that we should let all our anger go before the sun goes down. In other words, don't keep thinking over and over again how awful that person was. Forgive them and move on.

Restoring relationships

When a relationship is broken, it doesn't have to be forever. If two people talk about the conflict, try to sort it out by forgiving one another, and then a broken relationship can be restored.

Jacob and Esau

This is the true story of twin boys, grandchildren of Abraham. Their parents were Isaac and Rebekah. The boys were named Esau and Jacob. Esau was the first-born. When the boys grew up, Esau became a hunter and Jacob grew crops. Rebekah favoured Jacob because she didn't like the killing of animals. In those days the eldest son inherited a special blessing called the 'birthright'. Rebekah wanted Jacob to have it, even though he was the younger of the two.

Isaac loved the food that Esau hunted. So Isaac told Esau to go and hunt, and prepare a special meal for him; then he would give him the blessing. Rebekah overheard Isaac talking to Esau and rushed to tell her favourite son Jacob. She said to Jacob, "Your father is about to give Esau his blessing and I want you to have it instead. You need to go and get two of our goats and bring them to me, I will prepare them just the way Isaac likes it. Then you can take it to him and he will give you the blessing instead."

Jacob replied, "But Mother, Esau is a hairy man. What if father touches me and realizes that I'm tricking him?"

His mother said to him, "Don't worry! You can wear Esau's clothes and we'll put the goat hair on your hands and neck so he'll never know."

So they did just that and Jacob went to see his father pretending to be Esau.

"Hello Father," Jacob said.

"Hello, and who is this?" His father asked.

"It's me, Esau. I have brought you the food you wanted so that you can give me my blessing." Jacob lied.

"Come closer so I can touch you and know that you are really my oldest son Esau, said his father.

So Jacob went to Isaac and he felt his hands and said, "You sound just like Jacob but your hands are just like Esau. Are you really Esau?"

And Jacob chose to lie again, "I am."

So Isaac ate and when he was finished he asked, "Come and kiss me." When Jacob went to kiss him, Isaac smelled the clothes he was wearing just to make sure it smelled like Esau. Since Jacob was wearing Esau's clothes his father believed that he was with Esau and he gave the blessing to Jacob.

Just as Jacob finished getting the blessing, he thought he heard Esau coming, so he quickly snuck out the back of the tent. Just as he was walking away, Esau entered the tent with the food he had prepared for his father.

His father asked, "Who are you?"

"It's me, your son Esau. I'm here to get my blessing," said Esau confused.

"I just gave you your blessing." And Isaac started to realize he had been tricked just like he thought. Esau started crying and yelling, "Bless me too father!"

"There is no blessing left," said his father sadly.

Esau was angry with his brother Jacob for what he had done, so Jacob had to run away so he would be safe. He thought that Esau might kill him.

After Jacob ran away he went to live with his uncle Laban. He wanted to marry Laban's daughter Rachel, but Laban said that Jacob would have to work seven years before he could marry her. Then Jacob was tricked, just like he tricked his father. He did not know until after the wedding ceremony that Laban had given the older daughter, Leah as a bride. (The wedding veil meant that Jacob could not see her face during the ceremony.) So Jacob had to work another seven years before he could marry Rachel.

All these years had passed and Jacob and Esau had not mended their argument. But the time came when Jacob knew he must seek forgiveness from his brother. He sent gifts and a meeting was arranged. Jacob was afraid. He sent gifts with his servants to give to Esau. Would Esau forgive him? But Esau ran to meet Jacob and threw his arms around him, and kissed him.

"Who are all these people with you?" Esau asked.

"These are the children whom God has been good enough to give me," replied Jacob. So the two brothers were reconciled. They were brought back together.

The meaning of reconciliation

The Fijian word for a reconciliation ritual is *tabua* or *Yaqona*. This is like the giving of gifts that Jacob prepared for Esau. When reconciliation takes place there are speeches. One family says, "I'm sorry" and another accepts that gift of humility and says, "I forgive you."

Reconciliation is about two parties coming together. It is a step further than just feeling sorry, (which is called remorse). Reconciliation is repentance and forgiveness. It is actually making what has become two different parts to become one again.

Discussion

What were the consequences of the disagreement between Jacob and Esau?
(Jacob was cut off from his family for many years; fear on the part of Jacob; anger on the part of Esau)
How did reconciliation change things?