

Year 4

God is Truth 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God's word is true.
- God's word is the right foundation for life.
- God's truth can change the lives of those who accept it.
- Many do not accept God's truth as in the example of the Sower.
- The Bible is an essential text book for those who want to live by the truth.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Geology: rocks, fossils, dinosaurs

Link between "God is Truth" and classroom topics:

Building one's life on the truth is building one's life on the rock: obedience to the words of Jesus. To understand geology, we must accept the Bible as truth. The Bible tells us that the rocks and landforms we see around us today are a product of the Creation and Great Flood, occurring around 4000 BC and 2348 BC respectively (see Biblical time line.) Because of sin, God destroyed His once perfect creation through the Great Flood. Many, many fossils found today, including dinosaurs, are a result of animals buried quickly in the swirling mud.

Values:

honesty, fairness, respect for truth and justice, integrity

Biography:

Mary Jones and her Bible

God is Truth

Week 1

God's word is a sure foundation

Knowing Jesus is the most important thing in life.

Bible references

Matthew 7:24-27 The house on the rock.

John 14:6 Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Introduction

Make a collection of rocks, sand and soils. Discuss the way in which soils are made.

Can some rocks be made from soil?

Can some soils be made from rocks?

Consider the qualities of rocks.

Some are hard, some are soft, some are rough or smooth.

Consider different uses for rocks.

Rocks can be used for building houses, floors, fences; for making roads and driveways. Very soft rocks, like limestone, can be used for writing upon.

If you were going to build a house, would you choose to build it on sand or something harder?

Good building foundations are often made from concrete. If the house has wooden foundations, then the ground beneath must be very hard and stable, or over time the building could sink into the ground, and eventually fall apart.

Story: The House on the Rock

Read the story from Matthew 7:24-27.

Discussion

How can we make Jesus the foundation of our life?

It is not enough just to listen to the words of Jesus. What else must we do? (verse 26)

When Jesus IS the foundation of our life, we always stand up for the truth, and nothing will move us from the truth.

In the story, the houses faced storms. In every-day life certain troubles may come our way. These may seem like storms.

Think of some examples of troubles that could come into a person's life.

If Jesus is not the foundation, these troubles could cause people's faith in God to crash. Some people might say, 'If God is really there, then He would not have allowed this to happen.' However, people who have Jesus as their closest friend find that instead of blaming God for troubles, they depend more and more on Him when things get difficult.

Activity

Write the words on the bricks in the spaces in the house, to make a sentence starting with "Build".



God is Truth

Week 2

Be committed to the truth

Bible references

Mark 4:1-20 The Sower

Ephesians 3:17 Christ in our hearts

Philippians 3:16 Following the example of truth

Introduction

Show some different kinds of seeds.

What would we do if we wanted these seeds to sprout?

What would we need?

What kind of soil would be best for planting the seeds...fine and soft...or hard and rocky?

Story: The sower and the seed

Read the story from Mark 4:1-8 and Mark 4:14-20.

OR use the following story.

There was once a farmer who wanted to grow some wheat. He took his bag of seed and started to throw it here, there and everywhere. He didn't plant each little seed carefully in the ground as you may do with peas or beans. That would take too long. He just threw the seed all around the field.

Well I'm sure you can guess what happened. Not all of the seed landed in the nicely ploughed soil. There was a little breeze blowing that day. Some of the seeds blew away and fell onto the path. That was no place for seeds to grow. It was far too hard, and the seeds would be trampled under people's feet. Besides that, the birds flying above could see the seeds lying there on the road so they would quickly swoop down and eat the seeds.

Some of the seeds blew away and fell on hard stones beside the path. The seeds would never have a chance to grow there. There was no soft soil for sending their roots down, and who would water them?

In one corner of the field was a thistle patch. These were plants with thorns. Some of the seeds blew across there too. Very soon the thistles decided that they didn't want any little seeds growing in their patch. As the seeds tried to grow, the thistles took all the water from them, and then finally grew up so tall that the little plants couldn't get any sunshine.

Meanwhile, the seeds that fell on the fine ploughed soil sprouted. As the farmer watered them and the sun shone on them, the little seeds grew into beautiful heads of golden wheat. But the seeds that fell on the road, the rocks and among thistles, just didn't grow at all.

Jesus told that story because He wanted people to understand their own hearts. When our hearts are ready to accept Jesus, God's word can be sown in our hearts and we will receive it with joy. As we learn more about Jesus and choose to love and obey Him, it is like sun shining into our hearts.

Some people however do not want to accept Jesus. Their hearts are hard, just like the road or the rocks in the story. There are still other people who say, "Yes, I want to be a Christian," but later they see their friends who are not living for Jesus. They forget about Jesus and go with their friends. Their hearts are like the soil where the thistles grew. The soil is soft enough, but other things get in the way. Jesus wants us to have hearts that will receive His words and never turn away from them.

Discussion

Discuss the representation of the four soil types.

1. The person who hears what the Bible has to say, but is tempted by Satan to forget about it. This person turns their back on Jesus. *(the path)*
2. The person who hears the message of the Bible and is so happy to accept it. This person decides to be a follower of Jesus. However, when difficult times come they decide they no longer want to be a Christian. This is a bit like a person who built his house on the sand. *(the rocky soil)*
3. The person who hears the message and lets other things like money or personal interests become more important than God. *(the thorny ground)*
4. The person who hears the word of God, obeys God and remains with the truth. *(the good soil)*

Puzzle

If our hearts are to be like the good soil then we need to _____ God's word and _____ it, then produce _____ fruit.

(The children can find the missing words from Mark 4:20... hear, accept, good)

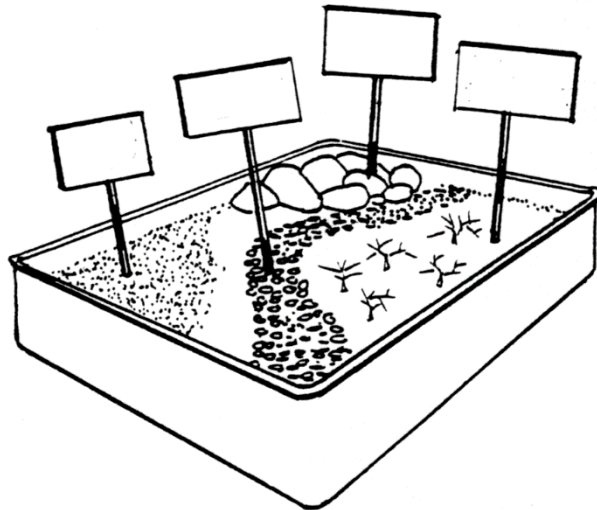
Art/Craft

Decorate a terracotta pot or a paper cup with painted designs. When dry, fill it with some good fine soil and plant some seeds. Water them and watch them sprout.

For comparison, other pots could be prepared containing different types of soil, e.g. rocky, sandy, full of weeds. How well do seeds grow in these pots?

Alternative activity

Make a model of the four soil types in a sand tray. Make labels for the soil types.



Act it out

You will need a narrator, and children to represent:

- seeds which fall upon 4 different kinds of soil
- the sun
- the rain
- the wind

The 'seeds' take their places in four designated areas (good soil, stony path, rocky ground, and thorny ground). 'Seeds' curl up into small balls. They gradually open up as they are visited by 'sun' and 'rain'.

Narrator:

Once a farmer planted some seed. Some fell on the good soil, some on the stony path, some on the rocky ground and some on the thorny ground. The rain watered the seeds. The sun shone. The seeds began to sprout. Soon the little seeds grew into tall plants. The sun shone hotter and hotter. (*Wipe brow*) The rain fell. (*Open hands to sky*) The wind blew. (*Sway*) One by one the little plants withered and wilted...all except the plants with their roots deeply planted in the good soil. These plants continued to grow tall and strong.

God is Truth

Week 3

The Bible is God's book

Bible references

Proverbs 30:5-6 The word of God is truth.

Psalms 12:6 God's word is pure.

Psalms 119:9-11 Obey God's word.

Psalms 119:105 God's word is a lamp to our feet.

Ephesians 6:17 God's word is a sword.

Discussion

Why is the Bible different to other books?

How do we know the Bible is true?

Why did God give the Bible to us?

Why is it important for everyone in the world to have the opportunity of reading the Bible?

Can you think of missionaries who have helped to make this possible? (e.g. Bible translators, Bible smugglers).

Bible lesson: The Bible is God's book

The Bible is God's book. Many hundreds of years ago God directed many men to write down all the things He wanted to have in His Book. The Bible is divided into two large parts. The first part is called the Old Testament. There are 37 books in the Old Testament. It tells about the world when it was first made, and about God's special people, the children of Israel. The Old Testament Israelites were always forgetting to serve the true God. They often went away from God and worshipped idols instead. Again and again God had to punish them for serving idols. They were sometimes sent to other countries as slaves and sometimes other kings ruled over them.

The second part is called the New Testament. There are 29 books in the New Testament. It tells us mostly about Jesus Christ, our Saviour. The New Testament begins with the birth of Jesus. At this time their country was called Palestine and it was ruled by the king of Rome. (Rome is in Italy.) At this time the Scriptures were kept in the temple. They were written by hand on rolled up paper called a scroll. The people of Israel knew from the Scriptures that one day a Saviour would come to set them free. They were looking forward to that day. But many did not recognize that Jesus was the One.

Questions

What are some of the things we read about in the Old Testament?

How did the people of Israel in the Old Testament know what God was saying?

Why did God punish the Israelites by putting them under the rule of another king?

At the time of the New Testament, who ruled their country?

What is the New Testament mainly about?

What were the people of Israel waiting for?

True Story: Mary Jones and her Bible

Mary Jones was a girl who lived in Wales more than 200 years ago. If you look at a map of Great Britain you will find Wales next to England. In those days the people of Wales didn't speak English. They only spoke their own language, Welsh.

Mary started school when she was nine years old and soon became a very good reader. At school there was a big Bible written in Welsh. One day she was asked by the teacher to read aloud from the Bible. Mary was excited. She loved the Bible stories and was now able to read them for herself.

She told her parents about her opportunity to read the Bible at school, but at the same time felt sad that there was no Bible at home. Her family was poor and could not afford to buy a Bible.

Mary decided that she would save up to buy one, no matter how long it took. Mary worked hard. She collected firewood and helped her neighbours with cleaning and baby-sitting. Every job earned her a few pennies. Finally, after six years she had enough money.

Mary was fifteen now. She knew of a man who sold Bibles in a village 40 kilometres away. Mary decided to go to see this man.

"How will you get there?" asked her parents.

"I'll walk," said Mary. "I know I can walk that far."

"We will pray that God will keep you safe," said her parents.

Mary had only one pair of shoes. She knew that she couldn't afford them to wear out, so she decided to walk barefoot. It was rough and stony. Mary's feet became sore but she pressed on. Finally she arrived at the village.

"Can you direct me to the house of Mr. Charles?" she asked a friendly minister. The minister took her to the home of Mr. Charles.

"I'm so sorry, Mary," said Mr. Charles, "but I only have one Bible left and I have already promised that to a friend."

Mary started to cry. Mr. Charles felt sad too.

"Mary," he said, "I will let you have the Bible. My friend can have an English Bible while I am waiting to get some more."

Mary's tearful face quickly changed to a happy one.

The next day she started the long journey home with her Bible under her arm. After some days she arrived home. How happy her parents were to see her. God had protected Mary and helped her to get the Bible. Now they too could read the Bible.

Meanwhile Mr. Charles thought of Mary's eagerness to own a Bible.

"I'm sure there are others who would like to have their own Bibles as well," he thought. Mr. Charles went to London, and with a friend started working to produce Bibles for the many people who needed them. This involved translating and printing. It was his aim that one day

there would be enough Bibles for the whole world. The work started by Mr. Charles in 1804 later became known as the British and Foreign Bible Society.

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Activity

Make a list of Bible verses that can be helpful in different situations.

- God's word can help me when I am:
- angry.....James 1:19-20
- sad.....2 Corinthians 1:3-5
- afraid.....Psalm 27:1
- feeling selfish...Galatians 6:2-3
- tempted.....Ephesians 6:10-11

Game: Books of the New Testament This is a dice game for 2-4 players. If you don't have die, ask the children to cut little squares from paper and write numbers 1-6 in the squares. They can work in pairs, put the paper squares in a pile and when it is their turn they can close their eyes and select a paper square. When you see that the children have finished their game they can try to say the books of the New Testament in correct order, without looking!

