

Year 2

God is Wise

4 Weeks



Outcomes:

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The definition of wisdom
- The definition of 'community'
- The importance of working with others
- That being part of a group means that we can help others and be helped by others
- That in a group we must co-operate with other members
- The importance of acting unselfishly
- That in a group we must accept responsibilities

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Teeth; Growing up

Link between "God is Wise" and classroom topics:

God expects us to show wisdom in caring for our bodies, including caring for our teeth.

Values:

wisdom: responsibility, lifelong learning, goodness, patience, humility

God is Wise

Week 1

It is wise to work together

Bible references

1 Corinthians 12:14-18 Members of the body have different roles
Proverbs 6:6 The wisdom of the ant

Revision

Revise the definition of 'wise' – knowing the right thing to do, and doing it.

Discussion: Working together

When we belong to a group we work together.

A group of people working together is called a 'community'.

Working together is called co-operation.

We co-operate when we respect others and follow the rules of the group. This keeps everyone safe and happy.

Co-operation is being helpful to one another and sharing the load.

Co-operation is working together, but different people doing different jobs.

Can you think of times and places where we work together?

(Teacher can make a list in large print.) For example:

- In school we sometimes work in groups on a project; we play team games together
- At home we share jobs so that everything gets done, and all the work is not left to one person; we help with cleaning and help with looking after younger brothers or sisters

Let's make a list of rules for working in a group at school, e.g. sharing equipment; everyone giving ideas and not leaving it to one person; everyone helping to pack away at the end.

Let's make a list of rules for working together at home, e.g. children in the family can take turns at doing jobs; make sure you finish the job; do the job the way Mum or Dad want it done.

Bible Lesson: working together for God

1 Corinthians 12:14-18 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God has arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

If you had feet but no hands, would you have a whole body? No. Could your feet say they don't need your hands? No. How would you wash them or tie your shoelaces? But your hands aren't better than your feet. Your hands can't get anywhere unless your feet take them there. They need each other to be a fully functioning body.

When we work together for God we are like a body. Not all the people do the same thing, but all are necessary. We all have a part to play in the work God wants us to do.

Think about a musical band. Different people play different instruments. When we work together for God it is like a band playing. We all have different parts to play. Nobody plays a solo.

God says that when we work together for him we are called 'the body of Christ'. Jesus is the head of the body and we are the members. As members, we all look out for one another and we help one another. We are happy when others do well at their jobs.

Discussion:

What is the body of Christ?

List various abilities we have and things we can do.

Ask the children to explain how members of the body of Christ can work together to do God's work.

True or False?

- We all have a job to do. T
- We don't need anyone else. F
- We should care about each other's problems. T
- Some church members are more important than others. F

Emotions questions:

How do you feel when others look down on you?

How do you feel when you've done something well?

How should you feel when a fellow member is happy?

Activities:

Three-legged obstacle course (or some other activity where students have to work together to accomplish a task)

Have students do something with one hand: like tie their shoe, tie a bow or braid their hair.

Revision questions:

What is the body of Christ?

Who is the head of the body?

What kinds of jobs can we do for God?

What happens if one person does not do their job?

Learning from God's creation

If we watch carefully some of the creatures that God made, we can learn about how we should live. Many of God's creatures work together. They live and work in communities. Each member of the group has a job to do.

Here are some of God's creatures that live and work in a community:

Ants

Have you ever seen an ant carrying a load much bigger than itself? It is taking a piece of food somewhere. Do you know where the ant might be taking the food? The ant takes the food back to its nest to share with all the other ants.

The Bible tells us that ants are wise little creatures. They store up food when there is plenty, so that when the winter comes and they cannot find food, they have a store of food to eat. Ants are also wise little creatures because they work in community. Each member has a job to do. Some are soldiers, who fight off enemies, some are workers who collect the food and build the nest; some are nurses who look after the babies.

Bees

Bees also live in community. They have similar jobs to do. They all work together to make honey which is food for the baby bees. But there is enough left over for us to have some too!

God is Wise

Week 2

Twelve men worked together for Jesus

Bible references:

Matthew 4:19 Jesus calls the disciples

Mark 6:7 Jesus sent the disciples out in two's

Bible Lesson: Jesus calls His disciples

Jesus knew that he had a big job to do for his heavenly Father God. Jesus had to travel around from place to place, helping people who were sick and sad. He had to teach people about God. But Jesus wanted some friends to help him. Jesus had a team of twelve friends. They were called the disciples.

Four were fishermen. Jesus saw Peter, Andrew, James and John fishing by the lake. He said, "Come follow me!" And they did.

One day Jesus saw Matthew the tax collector sitting at his table. People did not like tax collectors, because many took money that did not belong to them. But Jesus wanted Matthew to follow Him. Matthew got up from his money table and followed Jesus.

Jesus also called seven other men: Phillip, Bartholomew, Thomas, another man named James, Simon, Thaddaeus and Judas. That made twelve altogether.

What do you think these helpers did? They probably helped with buying food. They did what ever Jesus asked them to do, like the time when Jesus asked them to go and get a donkey for him to ride on. These men were also learning from Jesus, so that when Jesus went back to heaven, they would carry on the work of Jesus.

Jesus told them to go out in twos. He did not send them out alone to do His work. After Jesus went back to heaven, many more people became Jesus' helpers. They told everyone about Jesus, and people got together to form churches. This is how the first churches started.

When the disciples worked for God they had to co-operate. They did not argue about how things should be done. They worked together.

Question:

One of Jesus' disciples did not co-operate. Who was it? What did he love more than Jesus? (Answer: Judas; money)

Discussion

What would you do in these situations? Think about working together.

1. You need to move something heavy.
2. Your class planted some vegetables and now the vegetables are ready to be picked.
3. There was a big wind storm. Leaves and branches have fallen all over your back yard.

Activity

Ask the children to suggest other jobs that can be done best when people work together.

Divide the children into groups to make a poster. The poster could say "It is wise to work together". They can draw people working together.

Ask the children to choose a group leader. The leader can decide how the members of the group will complete the task.



God is Wise

Week 3

What is a community?

Bible references

Matthew 22:37 “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

Phil 2:3 Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. (NLT)

Discussion

What is a community?

- Our school is a community.
- This class is a community.
- A church is a community.
- A family is a community.
- A village is a community.
- A neighbourhood is a community.

A community is a group of people doing things together.

Who are the members of the community? (People who live together, work together or do activities together.)

There is usually a leader.

If we are a member of a community, how should we treat others in our community?

- We respect others.
- We treat others with kindness.
- We help others.
- We thank others for the things they do for us.

Jesus told us that we should love our neighbours as we want to be loved.

The Bible also tells us that we should treat others in the way that we want to be treated.

If you want people to be kind to you, then be kind to others.

If you want people to help you when you need help, then be willing to help others.

Bible Lesson: The early church

After Jesus went back to heaven, his friends went around telling others about Jesus. This was dangerous work, because the enemies of Jesus did not want people talking about Jesus. If they were caught they could be put into prison.

But this did not stop the friends of Jesus. The more people they told about Jesus, the more people became followers of Jesus. The people who became followers were called Christians. The new Christians wanted to learn more about God, so the first churches were started, where people could come together to listen to God's word. They also shared bread and wine together, just as Jesus had told them to do, to remember how Jesus died on the cross. Because they were afraid of being caught, the churches had to meet in secret places. They kept moving around so that the enemies of Jesus did not find them. There were no phones in those days, so to let people know where they were meeting, the Christians thought of a secret sign which they would mark on the wall of the place where they were going to meet. It was the sign of a fish.

So very soon there were many people in the churches. They not only taught about God, but they also helped the poor. Many poor people became members of the churches. The churches raised money to buy food for them. Those who earned money gave their money to the church and everyone shared the things they had. The members looked after one another and also helped anyone in need. They prayed for the sick and they saw people healed, just as if was in the days when Jesus was with them.

Questions

In which country did the first church get started?

Where did the members meet?

Why was it dangerous?

How did the members of the first churches treat one another?

How did the members help one another?

Activity

Draw the sign of the fish.

Draw the members of the early church eating food together.

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Week 4

It is wise to treat others as we would want others to treat us.

Bible references

Matthew 19:14 Jesus welcomes children

John 13:35 I will never turn away anyone who comes to me.

Luke 6:31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Bible Lesson: Jesus welcomes children

Do you remember the story about Jesus welcoming the children?

Many people wanted to see Jesus. The children ran up to Jesus excitedly. They wanted to see Jesus too! But Jesus' friends, (the disciples), told the children to go away.

"Jesus is too busy for children," they said.

Jesus heard them say this. He said, "Don't send the children away. I am not too busy for children. I love children."

Then Jesus took the children in his arms, sat them on his knee and told them about God.

Questions:

How do you think the children felt at first when the disciples told them to go away?

How do you think they felt when Jesus welcomed them?

How would God want us to treat new children that come to our school or our church?

How would it feel to be going to a new school?

How might it feel to go and live in a new country?

How can we show new students that they are welcome to our school community?

Activity 1:

Talk with a partner about how you could help a new student to your class.

Now draw a picture together of how you can make this student feel welcome.

Towards the end of the session some children can be chosen to tell the rest of the class about their drawing.

Activity 2:

Divide children into groups of two or three for role play.

Each group can role play how they would welcome a visitor, e.g. to their home, to their school. One or two can be the visitors, one can be the welcomer. The children can plan what they would say and do, how they would greet the person using their name, smiling, looking at the person they are speaking to and showing friendship.

After discussion, the children can act out their scenario.