



Christian Education

Year 7 (age 12 -13)

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Year 7



God is Love 5 Weeks

Outcomes:

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- If we want to be forgiven, we must first forgive others
- Holding a grudge has serious negative effects
- We should never stop forgiving
- Conflict causes communication breakdown
- Conflict between family members can and should be resolved
- Forgiveness brings reconciliation
- We are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ
- Jesus forgives us when we are sorry for our sin
- God wants us to love and accept others, and accept ourselves.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Different cultural groups within Fiji; history of the social make-up of Fijian society; working together as a nation.

Link between “God is Love” and classroom topics:

Social conflict can be resolved by acceptance of individual difference; working together and appreciating one another brings harmony.

Values

cultural understanding, empathy, appreciation of family and community, humility, forgiveness, reconciliation, thankfulness

Biographies

Hannah Dudley; Pandita of India; Amy Carmichael

God is Love

Week 1

Forgiving and being forgiven

Bible references

Matt 18:21-35 The parable of the forgiving king and the unforgiving servant

Eph 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Introduction

Think about a time when you had a disagreement with someone in your class or family.

How did you feel?

What physical feelings can people experience when they are really angry? (*sweating, heart beating faster, fists clenched, face frowning, restless, moving around a lot*)

Why do people get angry? (*jealous, hurt feelings, someone does something against you*)

What would Jesus want us to do if someone does something wrong to us?

Bible study

Read Matt 18:21-35

How many times does Jesus tell us we have to forgive a person?

Why do you think Jesus told this story?

Who does the forgiving king represent?

Who does the unforgiving servant represent?

Why should we forgive others? (*because Christ has forgiven us*)

Problems for people who cannot forgive

Read Ephesians 4:29-32

a) Communication is broken!

Eph. 4:29 How can words be harmful? How can words be helpful?

b) We say things about people that we shouldn't say!

In v.31 Paul tells us about "evil speaking." When we hold a grudge against someone we might jump in and say something evil or negative about that person.

c) Bad feelings on the inside!

Sometimes we're able to control our tongue; sometimes we're able to close our lips and not say anything evil about someone, but people would be shocked if they could see what we feel in our hearts. In Eph. 4:31, Paul talks about bitterness. When someone hurts us we can become bitter. What does that mean?

d) Bitterness in the heart is poison to the body.

Some people hold things inside and bitterness grows like an infection. When you have a bad infection, everything about you is sensitive. Everything hurts. What is the cause of bitterness?

e) How can we get rid of it?

Forgiveness is the key (Verse 32)

If we hate someone for doing or saying something against us, it may be hard to be kind to them, but we need to tell God that we have forgiven them. Then make a conscious effort to show kindness.

Recognize that hating someone is a sin and confess it to God; ask for forgiveness; put the past behind and move on; treat the person who has wronged you with kindness.

God is Love

Week 2

God forgives us

Bible references

Luke 15:11-32 The son who left home. The father showed patience and offered forgiveness.

Psalms 103:8-18 God is slow to anger.

Luke 23:34; 1 John 1:9 God forgives us.

Colossians 3:12-13; Ephesians 4:32 We should forgive one another.

Introduction

- Think about times when your parents have lost patience with you or your brothers/sisters. Share experiences.
- Think about God as a father. Who are His children?
- What could we say about God's patience with his children?

Bible study: The Son Who Left Home

Read the story from Luke 15:11-32.

Who does the father represent?

Who does the son represent?

How do you think the father felt as he waited day by day for his son to return?

Would all fathers be as patient and forgiving as this father?

Bible research

If God is so patient and forgiving towards us, how patient and forgiving should we be towards others? Colossians 3:12-13.

What does it mean to 'put on' love?

God is Love

Week 3

Forgiving your family

Bible references

Matt 6:12 Forgive us the wrongs that we have done, as we forgive the wrongs others have done to us.

Matt 6:14-15 For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But, if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Luke 6:37 Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Matt 18: 21-22 Forgive, seventy times seven.

Ephesians 4:26 Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry.

Introduction

Why did God create families? *(so that we could be loved and cared for)*

It's because families are God's idea that Satan gets in and tries to destroy families.

Sometimes fights between family members can go on for years.

Sometimes parents lose their patience and get angry.

Sometimes young people decide to leave home.

What if you really believe that your Mum or Dad is not treating you fairly? What if you believe they have really done something wrong towards you? What should your reaction be?

Action

There are usually two sides to an argument. Arguments often start from little things, and then grow into bigger things.

Remember that Jesus tells us to forgive a person not just once, not just twice, but 70 times 7 times. That really means, just keep on forgiving.

How soon should we forgive? Read Ephesians 4:26.

If you have been hurt by others in your family, or others you know, you must forgive. Here's something you can try at home in your prayer time:

1. Tell God about all the wrong things that person has done to you.
2. Now tell God about all the wrong things you have done to them.
3. Ask God to show you how this disagreement has hurt Him.
4. Say sorry to God for the wrongs on your part. Say, "I forgive them Lord right now, and I refuse to hold on to this hurt any longer. I choose to put the past behind."
5. This is the hard part: Talk to the person you have had the disagreement with. Say that you are sorry for the actions that have hurt them. Now healing can start in your own heart.

6. Now look out for ways in which you can show kindness towards the person you have had the disagreement with. Maybe you can help out at home, or just speak kind and cheerful words.

Read the words of Jesus in Matt 6: 12 and 14-15

What do your parents want for you?

1. They want you to be happy, and will oppose anything you are doing that will not lead to your happiness.
2. They want you to have financial security.
3. They want you to be part of their lives in the future.
4. They want you to be grateful for what they have done for you.
5. They want you to make wise decisions. They don't want to be dishonoured by any bad choices you may make.
6. They want you to be loyal to them.

What does the Bible say about honouring parents?

Proverbs 6:20 My son, observe the commandment of your father; and do not forsake the teaching of your mother.

Ephesians 6:2-3 Honour your father and mother ... so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

What is the blessing we receive from honouring our parents?

God is Love

Week 4

Forgiveness and reconciliation

Bible reference: Ephesians 2:14-22 Reconciled to God

Bible study

Read Ephesians 2:14-22

After Jesus went back to heaven, many Jews and non-Jews became Christians. (Non-Jews are called Gentiles.) There were often disagreements between them. In this passage, Paul was telling the Ephesians, (who were not Jews), that both Jews and Gentiles can live in harmony as members of the same body of Christ.

How was peace between Jew and Gentile achieved?

Verses 14: Christ has made both Jew and Gentile one by breaking down the dividing wall and thus creating peace between the two groups, whereas previously there was hostility.

Verse 15: Both groups now come to God on the same basis and are no longer two separate groups, but one. Christ is then the basis of peace between Jew and Gentile.

How did Christ bring about reconciliation to God?

Verse 16: Both Jew and Gentile are reconciled to God through the cross of Christ.

What was the purpose of Christ's coming?

Verses 17-18: Christ came to preach peace to those who were far away from God, (the Gentiles), and to those who were near, (the Jews). The good news is that both groups now have access to the Father by the Holy Spirit through Christ's death on the cross.

How does God look upon Gentile Christians?

Verse 19: Gentile Christians have changed from being strangers and foreigners, and are now fellow-citizens and members of God's household, just as much as Jewish Christians.

What is the church built on?

Verse 20: Jesus Christ, the cornerstone

What sort of temple is God building?

Verse 21: The temple that God is building is a holy one, not made with hands, but made up of the people of God. Holiness is something that God desires in His people.

Further questions for discussion:

Over the centuries Jews have been persecuted. Can you think of examples in history?

Why do you think the Jews are a target of Satan?

How should Christians treat Jews?

How do disagreements start between different people groups? Can you think of examples?

True story: We Are Sorry

A story from Australia

On June 10, 1838, some white settlers murdered a group of Australian Aboriginal people. While the men of the Aboriginal tribe were away working, a group of white settlers attacked the Werei tribe's camp. Women, children and old people were taken to a nearby cattle-yard and killed. The event became known as the 'Myall Creek Massacre'. Later, seven of the nine men responsible were caught and hanged. (Two had escaped). However, the memory of what the Whites had done would always remain with the Aboriginal people.

In May 1988, Australia's new parliament house was opened in Canberra. Christians from all over Australia decided to get together to pray for Australia outside parliament house. They encircled the building and prayed all day and all night. They prayed that Australia would continue to be a free country. Some of the white Christians decided that they wanted to say 'sorry' to the Aboriginal people for the great injustices committed by white people against them.

A rough wooden cross was carried by a group of white Church leaders. The cross was made from timber taken from the cattle-yard where the Aboriginals had been killed 150 years before. It was placed in the ground in front of the crowd who had gathered to hear speeches of reconciliation. One of the white church leaders addressed the group of Aboriginal People.

The Aboriginal people then performed a ceremony, which showed their forgiveness towards the whites. They placed leaves on a fire. The smoke represented purification. They also poured water from plastic buckets into small paper cups held by the white church leaders. This was another sign of forgiveness and acceptance.

Discussion

1. What was the Myall Creek Massacre?
2. How did Christians express how sorry they were?
3. Do you think it makes sense to say sorry, even if you didn't do the act?
4. How did the Aboriginal people show that they forgave the whites?
5. Do you think the whites deserved to be forgiven?
6. Do you think it would have been hard for the Aboriginal people to show forgiveness?
7. How were the Aboriginal people putting into practice the words of Jesus in Matthew 18:21-22?

God is love

When people from two different cultures live together in one community there may be difficulties because of the differences. In some places in the world there is fighting between different groups of people who live in the same country. God's love overlooks the differences. God's love can also help us to forgive one another.

Answer to work book puzzle:

Forgive one another as God has forgiven you through Christ. (Ephesians 4:32)

God is Love

Week 5

Acceptance or rejection

Bible references

1 Thess 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. (GNB)

Luke 10:27 Love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself.

Luke 10:25-37 The parable of the Good Samaritan

Ephesians 2:10 We are His workmanship.

Psalms 139 Wonderfully made

Part 1 Love your neighbour

Read the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Background information:

The story takes place on the road between the city of Jerusalem in the mountains and the city of Jericho, about 32 km away. The road was rough, desolate, with few travelers, but a place where robbers often waited to attack people passing.

The people in the story:

The person who is robbed was a Jew.

The priest and the Levite are Jewish religious leaders.

The final person in the story is a Samaritan, a person from the province of Samaria.

The Jews considered Samaritans as social outcasts, racially inferior, practicing a false religion. They avoided any association with Samaritans, traveling long distances out of their way to avoid passing through a Samaritan area.

Questions about the Bible passage:

Why was it unusual for the Samaritan to help the Jew? (*Ans: Jews did not like Samaritans.*)

Why do you think Jesus used the example of a Jew and a Samaritan?

How did Jesus use this story to explain the meaning of “love your neighbour as yourself?”

Accepting others:

- Accepting differences in others and not expecting them to think, look, speak or act just like you
- Being free of prejudice
- Knowing that all people have feelings, needs, hopes and dreams
- Giving people space to have their own ideas, even if you don't agree with them
- Forgiving other people when they do wrong

Note that we accept *people* even if we don't accept their ideas. We might know that some people have wrong ideas, so we are careful to hold to what we know is right. But we don't bully or reject people for having different ideas to us.

Building up or putting down?

Putting down: teasing, calling names, making a fuss about little mistakes, excluding some from your group

Building up: ignoring their weaknesses, praising their efforts, accepting their mistakes without comment, being inclusive

Part 2 Love yourself

When the Bible says, “Love the Lord with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself”, what does it really mean to love yourself?

Is it wrong to ‘love yourself?’

The answer is yes and no.

It is wrong to think that you are better than everyone else, and it is wrong to be boastful about your achievements.

On the other hand it is wrong to put yourself down, because that is like saying, "I am not happy with the way God made me. I think that God made a mistake when he made me." Imagine how God feels about this.

Love is choosing the highest good for someone, and that means yourself as well. If you didn't love yourself you would not bother to keep yourself clean. You wouldn't care about yourself. That's not what God wants.

What is the right attitude to loving yourself?

The right attitude to loving yourself is to see yourself as God sees you.

- Know that God planned your birth and knew you before you were born, (Psalm 139).
- Know that you are God's workmanship and He has not finished with you yet, (Eph 2:10).
- Know that outward beauty is not related to inward happiness.
- Know that God has a special plan for your life and He wants to use you.
- Know that you are special and unique because you are His child.
- Know that all your achievements are only made possible through God.

How can you tell if you have the right attitude to 'loving yourself'?

How would you answer these questions?

- Do you want to change some things about yourself?
- Do you long to be like someone else?
- Do you think that God has made a mistake in the way He made you?

If you answered 'yes' to these questions then you may have a problem loving yourself.

When you *do not* love yourself you might:

- Be afraid of what others think
- Be worried that others may not accept you
- Be always thinking about yourself
- Give too much attention to your appearance, (or not enough)
- Have difficulty loving others and receiving their love
- Compare yourself with others
- Feel inferior to others

When you love yourself in a proud, boastful way, you might:

- Act in a superior way

- Not consider others
- Tell everyone how good you are

Discussion questions

What is wrong with 'putting yourself down'?

What is wrong with placing excessive importance on the way you look?

What is wrong with comparing yourself with others?

What advice would you give to someone who has trouble in 'loving themselves'?

Year 7

God is a Provider 5 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God provides the important things in life, not necessarily everything we want
- God is as important to life as air, food and water
- God sustained the Israelites across the desert
- God sustains us by His Spirit and through His word
- Jesus is the Living Water
- God provides joy through the Holy Spirit

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Air, wind, flight, birds

Link between “God is Provider” and classroom topics:

God provides air for sustaining life. We cannot live without it. God is as essential to life as the air we breathe, and He gives the Holy Spirit to all who ask.

Values:

faith; care for the environment; peace; generosity; thankfulness

Biographies:

Corrie ten Boom; Ruth Pfau

God is Provider

Week 1

God provides the important things in life

Bible references

Mark 6:30-44 Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish

Matthew 4:4 Man shall not live by bread alone.

Matthew 6:25-34 Life is more important than food.

John 6:47-58 Jesus, the bread of life.

1 Peter 2:2 As new-born babies need milk, we need God's word as our spiritual food.

Introduction

What are the most important things for staying alive?

Our bodies need... air, water, food and shelter.

Do we need anything else?

What if a baby was given nothing else except for those four things? What would happen to the baby?

People also need love, support and protection to stay alive.

What did Jesus say?

Read Matthew 4:4

Jesus said that there is another thing essential to life. That is the Word of God. Although a person may be able to live physically without God's Word, they could not live spiritually. The part of each person that cannot be seen is our spirit. It is the part that has been created to communicate with God. Our spirit needs love, and the Bible says that God is love. Everyone needs God to sustain them as much as they need air, water and food.

Read John 6:47-58;

Jesus said that if anyone eats this bread, then that person will live forever. Jesus meant that if you ask Him to be in charge of your life, then you can live forever.

Read Matthew 6:25-26 & 33

What does God say is the most important thing in life?

Read Mark 6:30-44. Jesus multiplied the loaves and fish. Why did He do this?

- The people were hungry and He genuinely cared for them.
- Bread was a symbol of the basic needs of life. If we trust in Jesus He can supply those needs.

Read 1 Peter 2:2. What do new Christians need?

Play reading: What shall I wear?

(Make two copies of this and ask two girl students to practice it to present to the class.)

Mum:

Hurry up and get dressed, Betty. We're leaving in ten minutes.

Lusi:

I like the week-ends because I don't have to wear my school clothes, but trying to decide what to wear is soooo difficult. I wish I had more new clothes. My friends have far more clothes than I have...and they have all the latest fashions. I just can't find anything in my wardrobe that I'd like to wear today!

"Mum, what shall I wear?"

Mum:

"How about your yellow dress?"

Lusi:

No. I can't wear that. I wore that last week. I suppose this blue one with flowers on it will have to do. That reminds me. I read a story about flowers in the Bible last night. Jesus was on a mountain telling the people about the beautiful clothes God gave flowers to wear...all different colours. Flowers don't have to worry about what they wear because God always provides for them. And Jesus said that God cares about me far more than He cares about flowers.

"Sorry for complaining about my clothes, God."

Lusi:

Mum. I'm ready."

Discussion

Think about the way in which God has provided for His creation. What kind of 'clothes' do flowers wear? What kind of 'clothes' do animals wear?

What should we do if we are feeling worried about not having enough food or clothes?

God is Provider

Week 2

God sustained the Israelites

Bible references

Exodus chapters 16 & 17 God sustained the Israelites in the wilderness.

Exodus chapters 25 & 40 The ark of God

Revelation 19 & 20 The Millennium

Introduction

Last week we learned about the things that God has provided in His creation to sustain life. That is, He gives us the things we need to keep us alive.

God sustained His special people, the Israelites, also called the Jews, throughout Old Testament times, because He had a very special purpose for them. That is, God's Son, Jesus, would be born into the Jewish race.

Bible lesson: The journey

Discuss some of the foods that you would take with you on a long bush trek. You have to carry your food in your back-pack so you would only take the most sustaining types of foods.

The Israelites were on a long journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. Men, women and children were travelling with their animals and possessions across the desert. No one would think that it was humanly possible to take such a large group that distance over such a harsh terrain. However, their leader, Moses obeyed and trusted God. Because of this, the group saw God sustain them continuously by many miraculous events.

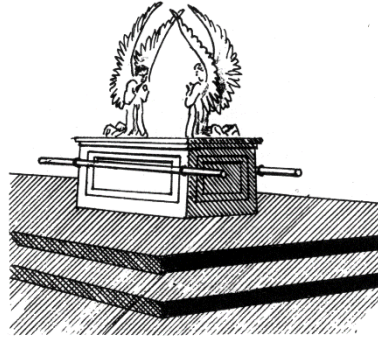
In a place where there was no water, God provided water from a rock. In a place where there was no food, God provided birds called quails, and a miraculous kind of food called Manna, which covered the ground every morning. God also stopped their shoes from wearing out, because shoes are very important walking across hot sand, and they couldn't buy any out there.

However, God knew that the Israelites would need something more than air, water, food and shoes on their journey. They needed the presence of God.

God went to a great deal of trouble to miraculously show them His constant presence. As their camp moved by day, a special cloud would follow them. As their camp rested by night, a supernatural fire burned brightly while they were stationary. The cloud and fire were signs of God's presence.

God wanted to remind the people of His presence in another way too. He asked Moses to organise the building of an ark. This was not an ark like Noah's ark. It was a small box which carried the tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written. Read about this in Exodus 25:10-22. The ark would be carried with them on long poles. They could never forget that God was present with them as long as they were carrying the ark.

Later God asked Moses to set up a special meeting tent where the people would come together to remember God's goodness to them. Read about this in Exodus 40:1-5 & 20. These days, God does not ask us to carry an ark with us wherever we go to remind us of His presence. Instead, we have God's Word, which tells us that Jesus came to give life. By accepting the life that Jesus gives, we can experience God's presence with us wherever we go. For a Christian, Jesus is the sustainer of life.



Discussion

God's purpose for the Jews has not finished. He wants them to come to know the Saviour Jesus Christ. When Jesus comes back again to take to heaven all those who love Him, there will be many people left behind on the earth who do not know Him. They will go through dark and terrible times, called the 7-year Tribulation, during which the Jews who did not accept Jesus previously, will turn to Him. This time of God's wrath will end when Jesus comes in glory to Jerusalem, to rule over the whole earth for a thousand years. This period, called the Millennium, will end with Christ's Last Judgement and the final defeat of Satan. God is therefore still sustaining the Jews in a special way, because they are still special to Him, even the ones who do not know Jesus.

What events in recent history have shown us that God is sustaining the Jews?

- In 1948, the recovery of the ancient land of Israel as a Jewish homeland, after centuries of homelessness, and the return of the Holocaust survivors from the Second World War to occupy the Land
- Miraculous survival from wars against Israel in 1967 & 1989

God is Provider

Week 3

The Living Water

Just as God provides water for life, He provides the Holy Spirit, the Living Water.

Bible references

John 7:37-39 Jesus, the Living Water

John 4:5-30 The woman at the well

Introduction

Today we are going to learn about the Holy Spirit. God is one spirit with three parts: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the part of God who can live inside us when we invite Him. *He* is a Person (not "it"), and is not just a force.

The woman at the well

In Bible days, people did not have taps in their homes. There was a well at the centre of the village and everyone would go there with their water-pots, fill them up, and then take them back to their houses.

Jesus was at the well one day and needed a drink. He did not have a water-pot so He asked a lady at the well to give Him a drink. Read the account from John 4:5-15

What sort of water was Jesus talking about?

Did the woman understand at first?

Do you think she understood after Jesus explained?

How do we know that the woman accepted the living water from Jesus?

How can we accept the living water that Jesus has to give?

Story: The secret

A story from Australia

Yami was an Australian Aboriginal boy who lived with his family at Wallatinna, about 1000 miles north of Adelaide. In Yami's culture nothing was written down. Everything to do with the land and the history of his people was told to the children by the older Aboriginal people. Through the wealth of stories told by the older people, Yami started learning about the land at an early age. The older people knew where the rock-holes and water-holes were, and they knew all about finding food. This information remained a secret within the tribe.

Sometimes Yami would travel with his family over the land. It was on these journeys that the secret information was most important. At first they would follow the creek up to the hills. There was always plenty of water in the creek. Then they left the creek and travelled across the bush. They followed a special track well-known to the people of Yami's tribe. Along this track there were little rock-holes in which water could be found. Yami's father knew exactly where to find these holes. Yami knew that he too must learn where to find them because one day he would be responsible for finding the holes by himself.

They stopped at a small rock-hole and Yami's father lifted the flat stone lid, which had been placed there to stop the water from evaporating. The rock-hole had filled with water during a rainy period. Even though there had not been rain for some time, the water remained in the rock-hole because of its secure lid. Yami's father carefully placed the lid after each person had drunk some water.

Sometimes Yami's family would travel with other families into the drier parts, but before attempting such a journey they would wait for the rain to fill the rock-holes and clay pans. Knowing where to find water was a special secret passed on from person to person in Yami's tribe. Through this secret information life was sustained in the dry times.

Every living thing needs water. We could say that water is the next most important thing to air in sustaining life. Without water we would have no life. Jesus said that there is something else that is absolutely important to life. Jesus was talking about our

spiritual life. Our spirit is the part of us that lives forever. We need water for our body to have life, but for our spirit to have life we need the Holy Spirit, the Living Water. We can receive the Holy Spirit by asking Jesus to forgive us for our sins and inviting Him into our lives.

Puzzle

Crack the code and write a message inside the clay jar.

CODE : a=3 b=6 c=9 etc.

30. 15. 57. 63. 57

60. 24. 15

36. 27. 66. 27. 42. 21

69. 3. 60. 15. 54

Answer: Jesus the Living Water

God is Provider

Week 4

God provides joy through the Holy Spirit

Bible references

John 7:37-39 Jesus, the Living Water and the promise of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 The Holy Spirit helps us.

Acts 1:8 The Holy Spirit gives us power.

Luke 24:49 The disciples were told to *wait* for the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2 The disciples received the Holy Spirit as promised.

Acts 10:44-48 and Acts 11:15-17 The promise was not just for the disciples.

John 16:24 The joy of the Lord

Introduction: The Promise

When Jesus spoke to people He often helped them to make pictures in their minds by using every-day examples. These examples would represent certain things He was trying to explain about God's Kingdom. We all know how much He liked to talk about shepherds and sheep, to show people the love and care God has for us. He also spoke about seeds, vines, trees, bread and light. Perhaps you can think of some others.

Last week we read how Jesus used the example of water to teach us about the special life that only He could give. The living water that never runs dry is like the life that Jesus gives. It never ends.

Jesus also used the example of water to teach people about the Holy Spirit. Read about this in John 7:37-39. In these verses, Jesus asks us to think about rivers... not trickles of water, but strong flowing rivers. A river is a powerful force. It moves along with energy. It is a source of life for living things for miles around.

Think about the River Nile and the life it gives as it flows through the desert. Rivers not only represent life, but also power. This is like the Holy Spirit, which gives both life and power... new life in Jesus, and power to be His disciple.

Jesus knew that the disciples needed help to spread the Good News. This is why He promised them the Holy Spirit who gave “explosive” power to help the disciples after Jesus had returned to heaven. Read about the purpose of the Holy Spirit in John 14:26 and Acts 1:8.

Find out what the disciples had to do in order to receive this promise, in Luke 24:49.

The promise is given

Read about the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4.

Was the promise just for the disciples? (Acts 2:38-39)

What were the disciples able to do as a result of receiving the Holy Spirit? (Mark 16:20)

John 16:24 – When we ask for the Holy Spirit, God gives us JOY.

God is Provider

Week 5

God gives good gifts

Bible reference

Luke 11:9-13 We need to ask for the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 4:19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.

Ask for the Holy Spirit

In the Jewish culture, it was their custom to provide food to travellers. So if a traveller was knocking on the door needing food, there was an obligation to show hospitality.

Read Luke 11:5-8. This is a picture of a traveller knocking on the door at night and asking for food. What might the traveller need to do if he wants the owner of the house to come and let him in?

Read verses 9-10. What do we have to do if we want something from God? Does this apply to wanting anything, such as the things we don't really need?

Read verses 11-12. How would a Jewish father treat his children?

Read verse 13. Who is the best Father of all? What is the best gift He can give us?

Jesus tells this story to show how serious we must be when we ask for the Holy Spirit. We must want the Holy Spirit with our whole heart.

The Spirit is the Father's very best gift. It is the gift of Himself to dwell with us and within us forever. Jesus says when you ask for the Holy Spirit, don't just ask, but seek and knock. Don't give up. Say, "Yes Lord, I want more of you!" Jesus promises that your Father in heaven will give you the Holy Spirit if you ask him.

So don't be satisfied with where you are or what you have. Your Father is wealthy beyond all imagination. He wants to fill you with the joy of the Holy Spirit. He gives spiritual life "according to his glorious riches" (Philippians 4:19). Ask and expect Him to give you His best gift.

Questions

In Jesus day, what would a traveller have to do if he arrives at a place at night and is hungry?

What do we have to do if we want something from God?

What is the best gift He can give us?

Year 7

God is our Saviour

3 Weeks



Outcomes:

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The events leading up to Easter
- The reason Jesus died on the cross
- That Jesus came alive again and is still alive today

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

The study of the African continent

Link between “God is our Saviour” and classroom topics:

John 3:16 For God loved the world so much that He sent his only son so that whoever believes in Him should not die but have everlasting life.

God wants the people of every country in the whole world to come to know Him, so that they can live forever with Him in heaven. People of every nation can come to know the true God by asking Jesus to forgive their sins and then to follow Him. Some people have never heard about Jesus so those who know about Him must tell others. How did Fijians come to know about Jesus?

Values:

faith; compassion; cultural understanding, empathy; thankfulness

Biography:

Mary Slessor

God is our Saviour

Week 1

Easter 1: The Passover

Bible reading: Luke 22

1. Who was sent to get the Passover supper ready?
2. Who did Jesus predict would go against him? (Peter and Judas)
3. Who is the greatest in Jesus' Kingdom?
4. When did Peter remember the words of Jesus?
5. How did he feel and what did he do?

Week 2

Easter 2: Jesus died for us

Bible reading: Luke 23

1. Why did Jesus die?
2. What happened to the curtain in the temple when Jesus died?
3. What do we know about Joseph of Arimathea?
4. What does Psalm 22:18 say? In which verses in Luke 22 were these prophetic words fulfilled?
5. What did the women followers of Jesus do?

Week 3

Easter 3: Jesus is alive!

Bible reading: Luke 24

1. What did the women find early on Sunday morning?
2. Who were the two men in bright shining clothes?
3. Who were the women?
4. What had they forgotten?
5. Why was it significant that Peter was the first disciple to see the empty tomb?
6. Why do you think Cleopas and his friend did not recognize Jesus while walking with Him on the road to Emmaus?
7. Why do you think many people cannot see or understand who Jesus is today, even though they have heard about him?
8. What do we have to do if we really want to know who Jesus is? Read Deuteronomy 4:29: "You will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Year 7

God is Pure and Holy 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That the original creation was perfect
- How evil came into the world
- Why the innocent suffer
- The physical effects of sin upon the planet
- God's future creation of a new heaven and earth which will resemble his original creation
- That we have free will
- That temptation is not sin but choosing to do wrong is sin
- That demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit is evidence of a pure and holy life

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Pollution and environmental management

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

The destruction of a once perfect world through pollution and lack of care for the environment is evidence of the effect of sin upon our planet.

Values:

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

Biographies:

John Wesley 1 (Heroes of the Faith)

God is Pure and Holy

Week 1

What happened to God's perfect world?

Bible references

Genesis 1-3 The Creation and Fall.

Romans 5:12 Sin came into the world through Adam.

Romans 3:23 and 1 John 1:10 All have sinned

Romans 8:22 The whole creation suffers because of sin

Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away.

2 Peter 3:13 and Revelation 21:4 a new heaven

Revelation 22:3 the curse is taken away

Introduction

Compare the original creation with today's world. Ask the students:

How is our world today different from the world on Day 7 of the creation week?

What evidence of pollution do we see? (rubbish dumps; polluted lakes and rivers; smoggy cities).

How far removed is today's world from the original Creation? Consider the following:

- actions of people
- animal behaviour
- disease
- ageing
- the environment

Bible lesson

What was the original creation like?

Can you imagine a wolf and a lamb lying peacefully together in the same field? It is hard to imagine but that is how it was in God's original perfect creation. Animals were originally made to live in peace with one another. There was no killing. All animals were vegetarians.

Can you imagine a world where people never fight or hate each other?... where people are never selfish or greedy? That is how God intended it to be.

Can you imagine a world where no one gets sick or injured?... where no one gets old and dies? God originally made people and animals to have perfectly healthy bodies.

Can you imagine a world where there are no droughts or floods or earthquakes or other natural disasters?... where there is no famine? The temperature is perfect and the vegetation is green and lush. There is no pollution to spoil the beautiful environment.

This is the creation as God made it. It was His plan.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, the world was no longer perfect. Sin entered the world and the earth was under a curse. Thorns and thistles started growing, choking the beautiful plants. Ugly creatures used bites and stings. Animals started attacking each other. Pollution began. Worst of all, the men and women, whom God had created to be His friends, started going their own way. They rejected Him and did the things that displeased Him.

Read Romans 5:12

Of course, none of us can say that we have not also disobeyed God in our own lives. So all of us in a sense share in the blame for what we see around us.

Read Romans 3:23 and 1 John 1:10

Who is the one and only answer for sin?

Will there be an end to the effects of sin?

Death has been around almost as long as humans have.

Read Romans 8:22. The whole of creation is suffering because of Adam's sin. It might appear that there is no end to the suffering brought about by this act of disobedience. God, however, in His great mercy, has promised not to leave His creation in its sinful state. He has promised to do away with the corruption Adam brought into the world. He offers us this salvation through His Son. Also, He has promised to remove, in the future, the curse He placed on His creation.

Read Revelation 21:1 and 22:3

He will make a new heaven and a new earth one day—one which we can't even begin to imagine. In this new place there will be no death, no crying and no pain. Nobody will be sad.

Read 2 Peter 3:13 and Revelation 21:4.

As those who have repented and believed in what Jesus did for us on the Cross, we can look forward to this new heaven and earth, knowing we will enjoy God forever in a wonderful place. The corruption that was introduced in the Garden of Eden will be taken away by God, giving us once again, a perfect place to live!

Discussion

Do you think the pollution of the world could be stopped if all people obeyed God?

Much of the pollution we see today is due to greed, selfishness and carelessness. If people were really God's caretakers, as God asked us to be, then people would think more about the consequences of the things they do.

Do you think the world really needs *all* the things that are made in factories? Do you think that all the resources of the earth are being used wisely?

God is Pure and Holy

Week 2

A new heaven and earth

Bible references

Revelation 21:23; 22:5; Isaiah 60:19 There is no sun or moon in Heaven and yet no darkness. God is the light.

Revelation 22:3 The throne of God

Revelation 22:6-9 Angels

Revelation 21:4 No sickness, sadness, crying, pain or dying

Revelation 21:8, & 27 No sin in Heaven

John 14:2-3 Many mansions

Revelation 21:2, 9-21 A holy city made of pure gold with gates of pearls; foundations of precious jewels.

Revelation 21:21 Streets of gold

James 1:12; Revelation 3:21 A crown of life

Revelation 20:15; 21:27 The book of life

Revelation 22:2 & 14 Tree of life

Revelation 22:1 The river of life

Revelation 7:9 People from every nation wearing white robes and waving palm branches

Revelation 20:7-10 The final defeat of Satan

Heaven will be a beautiful place. It will be far more beautiful than any place here on earth. The book that tells us most about Heaven is the very last book of the Bible, called Revelation.

What will make Heaven such a beautiful place? Firstly, it will look beautiful. Do you like gold and precious jewels? Well, Heaven is full of these. There is a city in Heaven called the Holy City. The whole city shines like a precious stone. In fact it is made of crystal. The city is as clear as glass and so are the walls around it. The foundation stones upon which the city is built are precious stones that we have here on earth. They are jasper, sapphire, agate, emerald, onyx, carnelian, yellow quartz, beryl, topaz, chalcedony, turquoise and amethyst. The streets of the city are made from pure gold. Nothing impure is allowed into the city. That is why only the purest of metals and precious stones are used.

Another reason for Heaven being such a beautiful place is that there is no sickness, sadness, crying, pain or dying there. These things were brought into our world when Satan had his way in the Garden of Eden. However, God has promised that Satan will one day be destroyed forever. He will be thrown into a lake of fire. None of his evil works will be allowed into Heaven. Just as everything used in the building of the city is pure, so are the people in it. God will take away all sin from people's lives if they have asked for forgiveness. There won't be any need for police in Heaven. You might think that all those precious jewels and the gold might get stolen. However, there is

no risk of that happening. No one wants to lie, kill or steal, because those who live in Heaven are true followers of Jesus.

The Bible calls the people who live in Heaven 'the saints'. They are people who have had their names written in the book of life. The good thing is that anyone can have their name written in the book of life, if they truly want to be a follower of Jesus. Even people who have done really bad things on this earth can go to Heaven. If they decide to change, and to ask Jesus to forgive them, then God will accept them. However, they must decide to become a follower of Jesus sometime during their life on earth. People who have heard about Jesus during their lifetime do not have the opportunity to say 'yes' to Jesus after death.

There is a tree of life and a river of life in Heaven too. The river has pure water that sparkles as crystal. Its refreshing water gives life to everyone who lives there. Near the river is a tree that gives fruit twelve times a year. It is called the Tree of Life. Could this be the same tree that was in the Garden of Eden? (Read Genesis 2:8.)

No one will need to sleep in Heaven because no one ever gets tired. It's just as well because there's no darkness; it's just beautiful daylight all the time. However, the sun does not make the light. Because God is light, He will be the light for us in Heaven.

God will sit on a beautiful throne in Heaven because He will be king. There will be angels in Heaven too. They are God's special messengers. However, we are more important to God than even the angels. We were created to love and praise Him, and in Heaven we will just love spending time with God, telling Him how much we love Him.

Discussion

What things will NOT be in Heaven?

Who will be in Heaven?

What is the Holy City like?

What is it made of?

What colours are the jewels? (Use an encyclopaedia or internet to find out.)

What will God be sitting on?

Why do you think the book of life, the tree of life and the river of life are needed in Heaven?

Bible research

Look up the verses from Revelation that tell us about Heaven. Build up a picture in your mind of what Heaven will be like. Put these ideas together in an art form.



God is Pure and Holy

Week 3

The evidence of sin

Bible references

Genesis 6-8 The Great Flood

Matthew 21:12-13 Jesus did not tolerate sin in His Father's house.

1 Chronicles 16:33; Psalm 7:11; Psalm 96:13; Acts 17:31; Revelation 20:4 God judges sin because He is holy.

Romans 3:23 All have sinned.

James 1:14-15 God is not responsible for temptation

Matt 6:9-13 The Lord's Prayer

Discussion

How does God feel about the pollution of His creation?

Let's think about the damage that people have caused to our beautiful world. Who can suggest some?

e.g. oil spills; the expansion of deserts; the destruction of rainforests; meltdown of nuclear reactors. How does God feel about all this? How does God feel about the pollution of human nature? (*sin*)

God must be very sad about the pollution of the beautiful world that He created. However, God is even more broken-hearted over sin, which began in the Garden of Eden. Instead of being completely obedient to God, people became disobedient.

Because God is pure and holy He cannot tolerate sin. We know that Jesus did not tolerate sin in His Father's house, the temple. He threw out the people who were turning it into a market place, (Matthew 21:12-13.) There must be consequences of sin.

What was God's first act of judgement upon a world destroying itself? (Genesis 6-8)
Is there anyone in the world who is perfect? (Romans 3:23)

Although we all sin, we can ask for God's forgiveness. Jesus made this possible. By becoming a man, He took the punishment that we deserved. If we have received forgiveness through Jesus, then we can be in right relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Some people blame God for the sin and suffering in the world. They can understand why a robber or murderer may suffer, but why innocent children? However, God is not to blame for suffering; when He created people, He placed *them* in charge of the Creation. People were not created like puppets, but were created to think for themselves and make responsible decisions. That's the way God wanted it to be. He wanted people to *choose* to love and obey Him. Unfortunately, mankind did not choose to obey God's laws, and as a result, the world is in a mess.

Because sin could not remain part of God's perfect world, there had to be consequences for Adam and Eve's disobedience. Their disobedience had allowed Satan to enter the world, giving him power over the creation. But God put a plan in motion to make all things perfect again; He would offer forgiveness through the Cross, bring a final judgement for the disobedient, completely destroy Satan, and create a new heaven and a new earth. Until then the world must continue to live under Satan's influence. However, God has provided special protection for those who love and obey Him. It is the armour of God. (Ephesians 6)

Choose to do right!

We all face temptations. Because we have free will we can choose to do right or wrong; to be on God's side or not. Temptation in itself is not sin. It only becomes sin when we choose to do wrong instead of right, (James 1:14-15).

Discussion

Is God really responsible for the sin and suffering in the world? Who is?

What is free will?

Why did God choose to give us free will?

Why doesn't God step in now and remove the suffering? *(His plan is in motion and it is not yet time for Satan to be completely destroyed. The world is still paying the price for Adam and Eve's sin.)*

What answer has God provided for our sinful world? *(Jesus' death on the cross.)*

Read the Lord's Prayer (Matt 6:9-13). What weapon do we have against temptation? *(prayer)*

God is Pure and Holy

Week 4

Receiving God's forgiveness

Bible references

Jeremiah 18 Jeremiah at the potter's house.

Isaiah 64:8 You are the potter, Lord, and we are the clay.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, God will forgive us.

1 John 1:5-10 Walk in the light.

Matthew 5:13-15 Salt and light.

Introduction

Bring a piece of clay, or show something made of clay and talk about how it has to be moulded and fired.

Select four readers for the following play reading. (The person playing 'the voice of God' should be out of sight, e.g. behind a temporary curtain.)

Play reading: Jeremiah At the Potter's House

Narrator: *This is the true story of Jeremiah at the potter's house, found in the book of Jeremiah chapter 18. Jeremiah is praying before the Lord.*

Voice of God: Jeremiah! Go down to the potter's house. There is a message that I will give you as you watch the potter at work.

Narrator: *Jeremiah is at the potter's house. There are pots all around and in the middle, a potter's wheel. Jeremiah watches the potter at work. The potter makes a bowl from clay, then smashes it, putting it back into a ball of clay.*

Jeremiah: Hey! Don't smash it! That was good!

Potter: No Jeremiah. I only produce perfect vessels. This one wasn't round enough. However, with the same piece of clay I can make another bowl that is exactly how I want it.

Narrator: *Jeremiah is back at home, praying once again.*

Voice of God: Jeremiah! Did you see the potter at work? Just as the potter requires a perfect vessel, I require people who are pure and holy. If they ask for forgiveness, I will take away their sin and start over again. If they give their lives to me, I can remove the things that are displeasing to me.

Discussion about the play reading:

What did God show Jeremiah at the potter's house?

Bible study

1. What kind of people does God require? (1 Peter 2:9; Is 64:8)
2. Is anyone perfect? What is God's answer? (1 John 1:9)
3. How does God want us to live after we have received His forgiveness? Should we keep on doing things that displease Him? (1 John 1:5-10)
4. How can Christians offer hope to an impure world? (*Matt 5:13-15: Telling others about God's forgiveness; Being salt and light*)
5. What does the story of Jeremiah at the potter's house show us? (*that God is working on us, making us into the person He wants us to be. Once we are in His hands, He can forgive our mistakes and remake us.*)

Puzzle: Make five smaller words the word 'forgiveness'. (*for; or; give; given; forgiven*)

Year 7

God is Creator 5 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God's original creation was perfect
- Man's disobedience to God spoiled the original creation
- As mankind continued in sin, God had to send judgment in the form of a Flood
- Noah and his family were saved from the Flood through their righteousness
- We see evidence of the Great Flood today in the form of fossils
- The Ice Age was a consequence of the Great Flood

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Geology; land forms

Link between "God is Creator" and classroom topics:

The landforms we see today are a result of the Great Flood

Values

respect for truth; faith

Biographies:

Usaia

God is Creator

Week 1

God is a perfect Creator

... a perfect God and a perfect creation

Bible references

Genesis 1; Genesis 2:1-4 The seven days of creation.

Romans 8:19-23

"For creation was condemned to lose its purpose...yet there was the hope that the creation itself would one day be set free from its slavery to decay and would share the glorious freedom of the children of God." v. 20-21 (GNB)

Bible study: the Creation

Read the account of the six-day Creation from Gen. 1 and 2:1-4.

Discussion

Think about the beauty and harmony in God's original creation. Even the animals we know to be ferocious were once peaceful vegetarians. (Genesis 1:29-30)

Even dinosaurs such as the great tyrannosaurus rex lived peacefully with others. Snakes and spiders were not venomous. Animals such as rats and flies did not spread diseases. Fruits and vegetables did not need to be sprayed with pesticide, neither did they rot. People, animals and plants did not grow old. No one became sick. Everything was perfect, just as God is perfect.

God created all things in six days and rested on the seventh. This became the first 'week.' This is why most people today work for six days and rest for one.

Because no one was present at the creation except for God Himself, no one can know when the earth was created, unless of course we are told by God Himself. Over the last century the world has moved further away from a belief in God. This includes scientists. Scientists, who did not want to believe the Bible, invented dating methods like the *carbon dating method*, to try and work out the age of the earth. However, this method is only accurate to plus or minus 10,000 years; hardly accurate at all for a young earth. When we hear about the earth being billions of years old, it is only a belief, not a fact that can be proved. This is because science uses the scientific method to measure the *present*; science cannot measure the *past*!

We study *history* to know the past; and the Bible is God's history book. So scientists, who want to believe that the world is extremely old, build their theory on assumptions about the *past*. Such beliefs are not science! Remember, evolution denies the existence of God, and replaces Him with billions of years to make the evolutionary process believable.

Creation scientists use a method of dating called 'radiometric dating'. When properly interpreted, it does not show that the earth is millions or billions of years old. For example, rocks and other samples known to be very young.

Why can't the world be millions of years old according to the Bible?

Genesis 1:31 says that when God had completed the creation He said that it was "very good". This means that *everything* was good...the people, the animals, the plants, the weather.

Let's look at what it would be like If God took millions of years to create... He might have created bacteria first, and after a million years, plants, and after another million years, some forms of animal life, and after another million years, other forms of animal life, and after another million years, people. What is happening over the millions of years? There is death, pain and suffering. This is not the 'good and perfect' world that God created according to Genesis 1.

God is Creator

Week 2

No longer perfect

Bible references

Genesis 2:4-25; Genesis 3: The fall of man.

Bible lesson

Read the account from Gen. 2:4-25 and 3.

For a while, things were perfect in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden (planted especially for them by God). They could eat of any tree in Eden, except one. The first couple had a perfect relationship with their Creator, a perfect marriage and a perfect place to live. The animals, which Adam ruled over, got along perfectly. But something obviously corrupted this 'very good' world, turning it into the world we see today, full of sickness and death.

Adam and Eve both knew they could eat from any tree in the Garden of Eden except from the one known as the 'Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.' God had forbidden them to eat from it, telling them that if they ate from it, they would die.

The devil, a real being, had taken the form of a serpent. He knew what God had said, but he caused Eve to question God's words by asking, 'Did God say you weren't to eat from any tree of the garden?' and then lying, 'You won't really die.' Eve believed the serpent, rather than God, and ate the forbidden fruit.

Then she gave some to Adam, who hadn't been deceived by the serpent but ate it willingly (1 Timothy 2:14). This caused them both to immediately die spiritually (be separated from God) and to begin to die physically, on that very day.

Because of his disobedience (sin), all of his descendants (you and I) are born with sin in our nature. Because of Adam's sin, our bodies will die. Because of Adam's sin, God cursed His precious creation. The world we see today, while reflecting God's original creation, has been corrupted by sin.

The good news is that God did not abandon His creation after Adam's sin! He promised that one day He would send a Saviour, the 'seed of a woman,' to 'bruise' (crush, break) the head of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). This Saviour, Jesus Christ, was indeed born of a woman without a human father, about 4,000 years later. Christ died on the Cross, and rose again to save His people from their sins, so indeed dealing a death-blow to (crushing the head of) the devil (serpent).

Discussion

What were the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience?

Why was the world now a different place?

What had entered the world?

What effects did sin have upon...

ANIMALS

- such as lions, some dinosaurs, and wolves? (They became aggressive, with a desire to kill.)
- such as giraffe and deer? (They became fearful and needed to protect themselves.)
- such as snakes, flies and mosquitoes? (They brought about a harmful effect on the creation through poisons and germs.)

PLANTS

- Such as fruits, vegetables, cereal crops, flower and trees. (They would now rot and decay.)

PEOPLE

- Were they still close to God?
- How did they react to one another?
- Why was it now more difficult to be caretakers of God's creation?

GOD

How did He feel about all this?

God is Creator

Week 3

God's judgement upon a sinful world

Acknowledgement: by Russell Grigg, Creation Magazine Volume 35(3) 2013
www.creation.com

Bible references

Genesis 6:9-22; chapters 7 & 8 The Great Flood

Galatians 4:4 God sent Jesus as an answer to the problem.

The Great Flood

After Adam and Eve had disobeyed God by eating the fruit that God had commanded them not to eat, God sent them to live outside the Garden of Eden. Here they had lots of children, who grew up and had lots of children, who grew up and had lots of children. Most of these people did not love and obey God, but only thought and did evil things all the time. Things got so bad that God was sorry He had made man. After about 1,500 years, only one man, Noah, worshipped God and obeyed Him.

Building the Ark

One day God told Noah He was going to send a flood that would cover the whole earth. God told Noah to build a huge Ark—this was to save alive some of the animals, along with Noah's family to repopulate the earth after the Flood. The Ark measured about 140 x 23 x 13.5 metres or 450 x 75 x 45 feet. This is longer than a football field, as wide as four traffic lanes, and a little higher than a four-floor building. It had three decks, lots of rooms for all the animals and their food, a roof to keep the rain out, and a full-length opening at the top to let in light and fresh air. People there could see the huge Ark taking shape as Noah and his sons built it. But no one heeded Noah's warning that a Flood was coming, and that when it did, they would have to be aboard the Ark to be saved.

All aboard!

After many, many years, it was all ready. God sent the animals and birds to Noah—a pair of most animals, but seven pairs of a few kinds (the 'clean' animals that could be used for sacrifices—later these animals would be the only ones the Hebrews could eat). Was there room for them all? Yes, there were only several thousand animals in all. That's because many of the animals that went on the Ark produced many species of animals after the Flood. For instance, the wolf, the coyote, the dingo, the jackal, and the dogs that you might have as pets, all came from a single pair that entered the Ark. And the lion, the panther, the cheetah, and the tiger probably all come from a single pair that was on the Ark. Noah also took pairs of the different kinds of dinosaurs, whose ancestors God had created on Day 6 of Creation Week, along with the other animals. There was room for even the biggest dinosaurs, as these may have come on board before they were fully grown. There were probably about 50 kinds of dinosaurs on the Ark.

But of course, Noah didn't need to take any animals that live in the water, like fish and whales and crabs. And he didn't have to take insects because they don't breathe through nostrils (Genesis 7:22). There could have been some on the Ark as 'stowaways', but some could have also survived outside the Ark.

What about animals that now live in far-away places, like kangaroos and penguins? The Flood changed the earth's surface. Before the Flood, there was only one continent, not the seven we have now, so all the animals would have been living on the same land area as Noah. When Noah and his family and all the animals were aboard, God sent the water. First, it came from "the great deep"—from huge reservoirs deep below the ocean and land.

Then it was the hardest rain ever seen—for forty days and forty nights! Everything that breathed and lived on dry land, died. Only Noah was left, and those who were with him in the Ark" (Genesis 7:22–23).

The Flood lasted about a year. So where did the water go? Here is something to think about: imagine that the earth's surface was completely smooth—all the mountains flattened and the ocean basins raised to the same level. All the water in the oceans today would cover the whole surface to 3 km (2 miles) deep. So there is plenty of water to cover the whole globe—it just had to be more even.

The Bible says that "the mountains rose, the valleys sank down" (Psalm 104:8). This indicates that there were huge earth movements at that time, which caused the mountains we see today, to be pushed up to their present height. There are seashells at the top of Mt Everest and many other mountains, showing that they were once under the waters of Noah's Flood. All this uplift caused oceans of water to flow off the land into deep basins that sank down in the sea. It also caused huge changes in the earth's surface. And when the waters came down enough, Noah's Ark grounded on the 'mountains of Ararat', though we don't know exactly where that is today.

Out they all came

When the earth at last was dry and producing vegetation again, God told Noah to come out of the Ark and to bring out all the animals and birds. In time, they all had families that had families that had families, to replace the animals and birds that had died in the Flood. They moved towards Europe, Africa, and Asia. Some of these eventually reached the land we now know as Australia. Others crossed the land bridge to North America, and in time, continued on down to South America. All this was possible because, after the Flood, there was an Ice Age that locked up huge quantities of water as ice on the land.

This lowered the sea-level, exposing long land-bridges which the animals could cross.

Noah offered a sacrifice to God to thank Him for protecting them during the Flood. At that time, God made a special promise that He would never again send a

worldwide Flood to destroy the whole earth and everything that lives on it. And as a reminder of this promise that God made, He gave a special meaning to the rainbow which we often see in the clouds after it has been raining. From that time on, the rainbow was a sign of this promise by God. There have been lots of local floods since then, but never again a worldwide one.

We know the Flood occurred—first, because it is recorded in the Bible. And this is confirmed by the evidence it left. We find animal and plant fossils all over the world. Mud and sand quickly covered the drowned animals, preserving them before they had time to rot or be eaten by fish. These animals turned into the fossils we find in the ground today—three-quarters of the earth’s land surface contains fossils. Most of the coal we see today formed from plants that were buried 4,500 years ago in Noah’s Flood.

Although there will never again be a worldwide flood judgment, each one of us will have to face judgment by God for the way we have lived our lives. You may have friends who do not believe or know of this. They are like the people of Noah’s day who didn’t believe there was going to be a Flood. But this didn’t stop it from happening.

How do we escape? We don’t have an Ark like Noah did, but we have the Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, and who has risen from the dead to be the Saviour of all who put their faith and trust in Him.

Did Noah’s Flood cover the whole earth?

Yes, the Bible says it did. If it was only local, Noah would not have needed an Ark at all, as birds could have flown off to safety on their own, and Noah and his family and the animals could have all walked to safety before a local flood happened. And if only local animals died, there were lots of animals elsewhere to replace them.

Noah was aboard the Ark a year and ten days; local floods never last that long. People groups all around the world have flood stories, as we should expect, as all people in the world are descended from Noah and his family. Finally, if it was just a local flood, it would mean that God has broken His promise never to send another one like it. God does not break His promises. So Yes, Noah’s Flood did cover the whole earth.

Activities

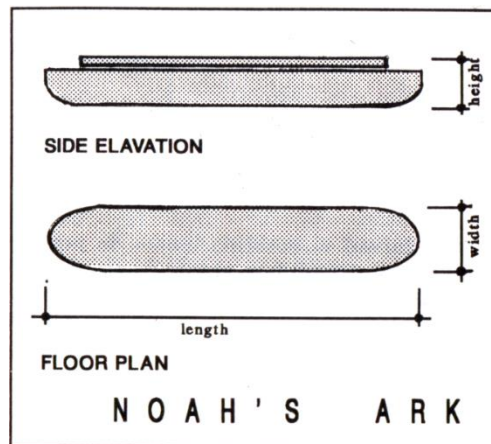
1. Work in pairs to design an ark.

Read the description of the ark in Genesis 6:14-16.

Write down the measurements given to Noah.

Imagine that you had to design the ark. Show side elevation and floor plan. Don't forget to make provision for all the animals!

Using the measurements recorded in Genesis, work out a scale for your plan. (The easiest way to do this is to use a long piece of paper and use the scale, 1 meter = 1 centimeter.)



2. Why didn't Noah need to take thousands and thousands of animals aboard the ark? *(The different animal 'kinds' would be able to produce a variety of offspring, e.g. a wolf could give birth to a dog.)*

3. How did dinosaurs fit on to the ark? *(They were babies)*

4. How did animals like kangaroos get to far away places like Australia? *(The Ice Age lowered the sea levels and the animals traveled on land bridges)*

5. Explain where all the water went to after the flood. Use a drawing to help explain this. *(The Flood created huge mountains and valleys. The water went into the valleys.)*

6. How were most of the earth's fossils formed? *(By being buried quickly in mud during the Great Flood.)*

7. How much of the earth did the Great Flood cover? *(All of it)*

8. What did the rainbow represent? *(That God would never destroy the earth again by a flood.)*

9. Noah and His family were saved from disaster by trusting in God. How can people today be saved from the disaster of sin that Adam and Eve brought into the world?

God is Creator

Week 4

Evidence of the Great Flood

Bible reference: Genesis 6-8 The Great Flood

What evidence do we see today of the Great Flood?

Fossils!

What are fossils? (Ans: Plants or animals that have been turned into rock.)

About 95% of all fossils found today are creatures from the sea, like shells, corals and sea snails. These organisms do not have backbones. They do have hard outer parts that have the greatest chance to become fossils. During the Great Flood they were buried quickly and so deeply, under heavy layers of sediment that they were unable to escape. That's where they died. The conditions were perfect for them to be turned into rock.

Nearly 5% of all fossils are plants. Many are ferns, but some are ordinary plants like oaks and willows. These, too, were buried deeply under sediment during the Great Flood.

Less than 1% of all fossils are animals with backbones, which we call vertebrates. These would be the bones of animals like fish, or birds, or dinosaurs, but they are very rare. Few fossils are vertebrates because many of these animals lived on land. When land animals die in water, they often bloat, float, and rot. They are not easily and quickly buried. Their bodies would have decomposed from bacteria or been ripped apart by strong flood currents, or been devoured by scavengers. A few vertebrates, or parts of vertebrates, remained intact, were buried quickly, and the conditions were perfect for them to be turned into rock.

Most fossils are a few thousand years old. They can help us understand what animal and plant life was like many years ago. Some of the creatures we see preserved in rock may no longer exist today, like dinosaurs. Creatures that no longer exist we call extinct. If we did not have the fossils, we would have no idea what these forms of plants and animals were like.

Another thing we can learn from fossils is that something very important is missing. There are no fossils of creatures turning from one kind of animal or plant into another kind. It's clear from Genesis that God created each organism to reproduce after its own kind.

Fossils remind us that God is fair and He judges sin severely. He sent a flood that covered the world so that every land-creature that had the breath of life in it, would perish.

But wait. God gave the world a second chance. He didn't just end history with the worldwide Flood. He preserved two of every kind of air-breathing land-animal (and seven of some), to start up the world again. And He saved a family—Noah's family—so the human family could continue. God did this because He had made a promise that He intended to keep. That promise was to send a Savior to this earth who would be a Rescuer from sin. His name was Jesus. And just as the Ark was a place where Noah and his family could be safe from the judgment of the Flood, so Jesus is the ONE who can keep us safe from God's judgment on our sin.

Where can fossils be found?

Most fossils are found in sedimentary rocks (soft rocks laid down by water), such as limestone, mudstone (or shale), and sandstone. Common places to hunt for fossils are in stream beds, quarries, and on the walls of cliffs and road cuts. And you can hunt for these hidden treasures all over this world. Fossils are found on tall mountains.

Fossils are found at the seashore. Fossils are found inland where there is no water present at all. But this is exactly what you would expect if there was a water catastrophe that covered the whole world at one time.

Acknowledgement: I really, really, really like fossils by Ruth Carter

Work book photograph: Ask students to study the mouth of the fish. Notice that the fish was buried quickly and suddenly, in the act of eating dinner.



God is Creator

Week 5

What was it like after the Flood?

The Ice Age: A consequence of the Great Flood

Acknowledgement: Life in the Ice Age by Erin Hughes & Lita Cosner, Creation Magazine Vol 38 no. 1 2016

Bible references:

Genesis 6-8 The Great Flood

Job 6:16-17 The streams are choked with snow and ice, but in the heat they disappear

Job 38:22 Have you ever visited the storerooms where I keep the snow and hail?

Job 38:29-30 Who is the mother of the ice and the frost, turning the waters to stone and freezing the face of the sea?

What happened to the earth's weather after the Flood? Was there really an Ice Age?

Evolutionists say that there have been many Ice Ages throughout history. Actually there was only one Ice Age, and it was caused by Noah's Flood. Though the Flood lasted only a year, its effects on the climate lasted for centuries! Hot underground water was a major source of the Flood waters, so even after they retreated back into the oceans, the water stayed warm. Also, massive volcanic eruptions would have poured ash into the air, which blocked out much sunlight over the land. So the land would have been much colder. Then some of the warm water evaporated into clouds, which then dropped much snow over the cold land.

Over centuries, this packed into huge ice sheets, covering a third of the earth's land. We can even see the effects the snow and ice had on the earth today; the ice at the North and South Poles is left over from this. The Ice Age lasted for about 700 years. That means if we use the Bible as our timeline, Israel went down to Egypt close to the end of the Ice Age.

Is the Ice Age in the Bible?

'Ice Age' is a modern term, so that phrase is not in Scripture. However, there is an indication that Job lived during the Ice Age. Some of the things he mentions indicate that he was familiar with ice and snow – in a place that doesn't have a lot of ice and snow today. He said, "My brothers are as treacherous as a torrent-bed, as torrential streams that pass away, which are dark with ice, and where the snow hides itself." And God asked Job, "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail?"

What did the Ice Age do to the earth's landscape?

While the earth we see today was mostly shaped by Noah's Flood, the Ice Age did its part too! Glaciers, (huge pieces of ice) shaped the landscape. Ice carved out huge rivers, extremely deep lakes, and fiords. (Fiords are valleys carved out by moving ice, and later filled up by the ocean. We find these in New Zealand, Scotland and Norway.)

How did animals survive the Ice Age?

Different sorts of animals were able to survive because the whole earth wasn't affected in the same way by the Ice Age. There were places around the equator that were warm enough to support the tropical life that we see today. In North America and Europe, many animals that had thick fur, survived. However, many animals did die as a result of the Ice Age.

What did people do during the Ice Age?

We know that people lived in areas affected by the Ice Age, and lived very well. That's because God created humans to be very creative and able to adapt to many different situations. Even today, people can live in places that are very cold, like Alaska and Greenland, and other places that are very hot.

We know that people hunted Woolly Mammoths and other animals for food and clothing during the Ice Age. In the cold, frozen parts of the world, it would have been hard to find enough plants to live on. Caves made good homes for people, and sometimes they painted on the walls, showing the types of animals in their environment.

The imbalance that caused the Ice Age – the cold continents and the warm oceans – eventually corrected itself, and ice retreated from the continents. Today only the extreme north and south of the earth is permanently covered with ice, reminding us today of one of the great events following the Great Flood.

Some animals that became specialized for living in the cold conditions of the Ice Age, like the Woolly Mammoth, seem to have become extinct after the Ice Age. They may have been so specialized for cold weather that they could not survive the warmer climate.

Twenty Questions about the Great Flood

1. What did God say about His creation after He had made it? (Genesis 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.)
2. What was the world like about 1500 years after the creation? (*There was evil on the earth. Genesis 6:5 says, "The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time."*)
3. There was only one family alive at the time who honoured God. Which family? (*Noah's family. Gen 6:8 says "Noah found grace / favour in the eyes of the Lord."*)
4. At this time Noah was 500 years old. Why did people live longer in those days? (*At the time of the Fall, people lived for a long time, but there has been a progressive shortening of the life-span of people from Adam to the time of Moses.*)
5. How old was Noah when he finished building the Ark? (*Noah was 600 years old.*)

6. How could people who lived in early times have the knowledge to build such a big structure? *(Early people had the same intelligence if people today. Also, God gave wisdom. Today's modern technology is only made possible because it builds upon 4,500 years of previous inventions. Technology is where it is today because of past knowledge.)*

7. What was the Ark made from? *(Gopher wood. It was made of solid wooden planks, laid in layers at different directions, like modern plywood and therefore very strong.)*

8. How big was the ark? *(It had many rooms. It was the size of three Olympic swimming pools connected end to end. It was the height of a five-storey building. There was plenty of height for the tall animals. It was big enough to fit 54 of Captain Cook's Endeavour inside, or 125,000 sheep inside.)*

9 How many levels did the ark have? *(It had three levels.)*

10. What were the levels used for? *(The top level was where Noah and his family lived. There was better ventilation and light there. The other levels were for animals and food storage. Ancient peoples were very good at preserving food.)*

11. Why didn't the Ark have a sail? *(Because it was not going anywhere. The whole earth would be covered with water.)*

12. How stable was the Ark? *(It was stable in up to 350 km per hour winds. It was more stable than the minimum requirements of US naval shipping.)*

13. What went inside? *(Eight people and two of every kind of land animal. There were also seven of every clean animal. Clean animals were the ones that God had told the Jews that they could eat. The clean animals would be used for eating and farming when the family got off the Ark.)*

14. How could the Ark hold every different type of animal in the whole world? *(God said to take every KIND, not breed. Therefore, there was only one kind of dog that probably looked like a wolf, and only one kind of cat etc. These animals had all the genes necessary to produce the variety of animals we have today.)*

15. How did Noah take dinosaurs and other dangerous animals like crocodiles aboard? *(Noah took baby animals.)*

16. How did the animals get into the Ark? *(God brought the animals to him. He did not have to go out and gather them.)*

17. What happened after all the animals were aboard? *(God shut the door.)*

18. How much of the earth was covered? (*The Bible says that the mountain tops were covered. That's why today we can see sea shell fossils on the Himalayan Mountains.*)

19. How long did they stay in the Ark? (*After 371 days God told Noah to leave the Ark.*)

20. Where did all the water go? (*Into deep valleys in the ocean floor*)

What can we learn from the ark?

Noah was kept safe but the people outside the ark were not.

There was one door into the ark. Jesus said, "I am the door, by me if any man enter in he shall be saved". 1 John 5:7

The cross is the door into the ark. Our sins are washed away. We are kept safe through the blood of Jesus.

What does this Chinese writing symbol tell us about the Great Flood? The early Chinese knew of the Great Flood, because all civilization grew and spread out from where the ark landed. Eight people in a vessel, (the symbol for boat), refers to Noah, his wife, the three sons and their wives.

船

boat

舟 八 口

vessel eight people

The Discovery of Genesis, C.H. Keeg and Ethel Nelson, p. 55

Year 7

God is Wise 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- It is wise to allow God to be our guide through life
- It is wise to take advice from those who are for us
- It is wise to take advice from older people who have more experience in life
- The Bible gives wise advice for our journey through life
- It takes humility to learn from others
- The Holy Spirit guides us in wisdom

Wisdom is “the ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding.

Wisdom is to know the right thing to do, and to do it.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Time and work; stewardship

Link between “God is Wise” and classroom topics:

God wants us to use our time wisely and serve Him by working to our best ability. We can ask God to give us wisdom in performing our work.

Values:

honesty, fairness, respect for truth and justice; lifelong learning, goodness, discernment

Biographies:

Wai of Ono (Pacific Island Stories)

God is Wise

Week 1

Following God's direction

It is wise to take advice from those older and wiser than we are.
It is wise to let God be our guide through life.

Bible references

Exodus 13:21-22 Guided by fire and by cloud.
Proverbs 6:20 Our parents guide us to maturity.
Proverbs 13:10 & 20 It is good to take wise advice.

Discussion

Discuss ways in which friends can have a good or bad influence upon us.

Everyone wants to be accepted by friends. This can mean wanting to do the things our friends do. Having the same interest as your friend, is good because it is a way of having fun together. However, becoming friends with someone who does harmful and destructive things, may mean that you become involved in those harmful or destructive things too.

Think of some destructive things that friends could do together. Now think of some good things. Decide on some good guidelines for choosing friends.

Bible research

There are many people who try to influence us. Not only friends, but parents, teachers, TV, music, books and magazines, are just some. The Bible tells us very clearly that it is important to be influenced by those who give good advice.

Read about the importance of wise advice in these verses from Proverbs:

Proverbs 6:20; 11:11; 12:26; 13:1, 10 & 20; 14:7

What kind of advice is good advice?

Who can give it?

Story: The Journey to the Promised Land

God's people, the Israelites, were in slavery to the cruel Egyptian Pharaoh. God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to a new land that he had promised to them. There they would be free, and would have many special things. God said that it would be a "land flowing with milk and honey". However, before they could get there, two big obstacles had to be overcome:

One... to get away from the wicked Egyptian Pharaoh

Two... to find their way across the desert

God used Moses for both of these challenges. Moses warned the Pharaoh that God had spoken, "Let my people go". But the Pharaoh would not listen; so God had to send

many plagues and diseases upon the Egyptians. Finally, when he did let them go, he sent his army after them to bring them back again. However, God did not allow the army to catch the Israelites. He opened up the Red Sea and allowed the Israelites to pass through on dry land, and then closed it up again, drowning the army.

The Israelites were now free, but faced with the second obstacle. How could they find their way across the desert? God had an answer for this problem. Find the answer in Exodus 13:21-22.

God not only showed them the way to go, but He also provided for them. When they had no water, He told Moses to strike a rock with his stick, and water came gushing out. When they had no food, God sent bread from heaven called manna.

Discussion

The fire and the cloud, were signs to the Israelites that God was with them. To find their way to the Promised Land they had to follow the cloud. Think about what could have happened if some had decided to go their own way.

Just as the Israelites needed to allow God to guide them, so do people today. We need to follow God's direction, written down for us in the Bible. Going our own way only leads to trouble.

1. What was the Promised Land going to be like?
2. How did God persuade the Pharaoh to let His people go?
3. What did God do when Pharaoh's army chased the Israelites?
4. How did God guide the Israelites across the desert?
5. What might have happened if they did not follow God's guidance?
6. How can God guide us in our every-day life?
7. What kind of people could He use to help guide us? Make a list.

God is wise

The wisest choice we can make is to allow God to be our guide. God guided the Israelites across the desert. God can guide us through life.

How can God guide me every day?

I can listen to His voice when I pray.

I can think about what the Bible has to say.

I can listen to wise advice from Christian people in whom I trust.

Activity

Students can label the sequence of events as God guided the Israelites on their journey to the Promised Land: 1. Chased by Pharaoh's army; 2. Opening of the Red Sea; 3. Pharaoh's army drowned in the Red Sea; 4. Led by a cloud during the day; 5. Led by a pillar of fire at night; 6. Water from a rock; 7. Manna in the desert

Week 2

The Bible is our guide through life

Bible references

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

2 Kings 22:1-20 Josiah rediscovers the book of the law and directs God's people to follow it.

Proverbs 1:8; Proverbs 13:1; Proverbs 19:20 Listen to wise advice.

Discussion

a) When we were young

What do you miss about being young?

Think of the funniest thing that happened to you before you were five.

How have you changed?

b) Growing up

What things will change in your life as you get older?

How can we be sure that we get the best out of life as we grow older?

God is our guiding light

God gave us life in the first place and He knows what is best for us. God wants to be a guide for everyone. It is up to us to invite Him to be our guide. Once you have invited Jesus to be the Lord of your life, He will guide you in the special and unique plan He has for your life.

Imagine that you are taking a tour through some really interesting caves. If you go alone, you do not know where to look for the special features. If you go with a tour guide, he knows exactly the points of interest. He can point them out with his torch and explain things to you. People who go through life without asking God to guide them, really miss out on finding the best for their life.

The Bible is a guide

The Bible is our guide through life, just like an owner's manual is a guide for how to operate a car. When your family goes on a trip to a new place, it is important to have some kind of guide to know where to go. They could use a road map. Or imagine walking through a dangerous part of the African jungle. You would be very grateful for a guide to show you the way.

Psalm 119:105 says "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." A light on the path helps us see where to go. And Psalm 119:133 says, "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me." Just as we need to follow an owner's manual to operate a car, or a map to get to our destination, we need to follow the Bible to live Godly life.

A long time ago, about 600 years before Jesus was born, the people of Judah lost God's Word. They had no guide to follow, so naturally they did what was wrong in God's eyes. But then God's Word was found. Let's find out what happened.

Read 2 Kings 22:1-20: The Book of the Law is found

Discussion Questions:

1. How old was Josiah when he became king? *(Only eight years old.)*
2. Where was the Book of Law found? *(In the temple.)*
3. What were the people doing in the temple? *(Distributing money brought to restore the temple.)*
4. What did Josiah do after hearing the words from the Book of Law? *(He tore his robes and wept.)*
5. Why was Josiah worried God would be angry? *(Because their fathers were not obeying God's Word.)*
6. What happened to Josiah because he wanted to follow God's Word? *(He was buried in peace and did not see the disaster.)*
7. Why is the Bible like a road map to guide us through life?
8. What other ways can God guide us? Read Proverbs 1:8; Proverbs 13:1; Proverbs 19:20. *(Listening to advice from wise people and listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit as He speaks through our conscience, are two examples).*

Activity

Ask students to make a chart showing things that represent their life from birth to present. They can use both drawings and words. They can include information about their home, pets, family, toys, sports, hobbies and holidays at different stages in their life. They can also include important milestones in their Christian faith.

Next session they can share with a partner about their life's journey and give testimony of how God has guided them in the past.

Week 3

Learning from others

To gain wisdom we must be teachable. This means listening to the wise advice of others. Proud people always think that their own ideas are best and don't want to listen to others. It takes humility to listen to and act upon advice from others.

Bible references

Psalm 32:8-9 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle, or they will not come to you.

Proverbs 12:15 Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others.

Proverbs 3:5-7 Never let yourself think you are wiser than what you are, (GNB)

2 Kings 5:1-19 Naaman had to follow advice even though he couldn't see sense in it.

Bible lesson

Read 2 Kings 5:1-19.

Naaman was a rich and famous man. He was the commander of the army of the king of Aram. But Naaman had a problem; he had an incurable disease called leprosy. Through the servant of his wife, Naaman heard that there was a prophet in Israel (Elisha) who could cure him. Naaman went to Israel, but when Elisha instructed him to wash in the Jordan River seven times in order to be made well, he was not pleased. Naaman pointed out that all the rivers in his homeland were cleaner.

One of Naaman's servants encouraged him to be humble and follow the prophet's advice. When he did wash in the Jordan seven times, as Elisha told him to do, he was healed of his leprosy. If Naaman had been too proud to listen to the advice of his servants, Naaman would not have been healed. Naaman gave God honour for healing him. He knew that God was the only god who should be worshipped, so he asked Elisha to forgive him whenever he had to go with his master to the temple of Rimmon (a false god).

Questions for discussion

1. What was wrong with Naaman?
2. Who advised him to go to Israel?
3. Why didn't Naaman want to wash in the Jordan? (v. 12)
4. Who advised him to do as Elisha asked? (v. 13)
5. What might have happened to Naaman if he chose to ignore the advice of his servants or Elisha?
6. How do we know that Naaman knew God was the only God who deserved to be worshipped?

Read Psalm 32:8-9. Discuss how a mule (or horse) can be stubborn, and wants to go its own way. How does this apply to people who hear good advice but refuse to follow it? Why do you think they refuse to follow it? (They are not humble or teachable.)

Read Proverbs 12:15. What does this verse tell us about listening to others?

Read Proverbs 3:5-7. What is it called when a person who thinks he knows everything and doesn't want to listen to others? (pride)

What are proud people like?

- Constantly believe they can do a better job than others
- Always want to win the argument
- Jealous of others – especially when someone is better than them at something
- Not trusting that others can do the things right
- Get angry easily - because they think others are not doing it right or fast enough.
- Watch out for their own interests; believe that others are not as important

WHY is Pride a Problem?

- Brings disobedience—they don't want to obey someone else's command or teaching.
- Fails to acknowledge the true source of their talents: God. When this happens, they will be less likely to obey God, to listen to His teachings and guidance, and to do His will.
- Looking down on others/hurting others' feelings.
- Hinders learning—proud people can't learn if they don't think others can teach them something.
- Irritates others, so they lose friends and make enemies.

Week 4

The Holy Spirit gives wisdom

Bible references

Proverbs 9:10 To be wise you must first have reverence for the Lord. If you know the Holy One, you have understanding.

Luke 12:11-12 When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.

John 14:26 The Holy Spirit as our helper

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

Acts 17:16-34 Paul in Athens was given wisdom by the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

When we are doing God's work we will meet people who have questions about life, about God and the Bible. What if we don't know the answer? What if people are telling us that God is not real and we don't know what to say?

What did Jesus tell us we could do in Luke 12:11-12?

Read what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit in John 14:26.

Paul in Athens

Read the account from Acts 17:16-34.

1. What did Paul notice about the city of Athens? (false gods)
2. What was Paul asked when he was brought before the city council? (verses 19-20)
3. Paul did not criticize the people straight out for worshiping false gods. What did he say? (verse 22)
4. Paul told the people that the 'unknown god' in their city was the Creator of the world and everything in it. How do you think he got this idea? (The Holy Spirit gave him wisdom.)
5. What did Paul say about the difference between God our creator and their gods? (verse 29)
6. What amazing thing did Paul tell them? (verse 31)
7. What was the reaction of the listeners when Paul told them that the Creator God raised a man from death? (verses 32 – 34: some made fun of him; some wanted to hear more; some believed)
8. What does this account teach us about sharing the Gospel with unbelievers? (Be courageous and rely on the Holy Spirit to give you the words; do not be discouraged if people do not believe – in Paul's case only a few believed on the first hearing.)

Year 7

God is a Servant 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- Jesus was the greatest servant who ever lived
- Being a follower involves sacrifice
- As followers, we are asked to take up our cross
- A true follower is willing to give all, and go the extra mile

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Fijian history and geography; the impact of early missionaries

Link between “God is a Servant” and classroom topics:

The impact of missionaries on Fiji; the servant heart of early missionaries

Values

compassion; flexibility; service; humility; willingness; thoughtfulness; sacrifice

Biographies:

William Bromelow, John Hunt, Joeli Bulu, Vatea, Varani, Father Damien

God is a Servant

Week 1

Serving through giving

Give everything you have.

Bible references

Mark 12:41-44 The poor widow who gave everything.

Matthew 25:14-29 The parable of the talents.

Luke 6:38 Give and it shall be given.

Matthew 10:8 Freely you have received, freely give.

2 Corinthians 9:7-9 God loves a person who gives happily.

Introduction

Prepare a mock \$100 note and show it to the students.

Ask:

If this money were real, what could you do with it?

How could you spend it on yourself?

How could you use it for God?

Write up answers in two columns: for self; for God

Discussion

Using the money for ourselves would make us feel happy, for a while anyway. Could we also receive happiness from giving the money away?

Bible research

What sort of 'giver' does God want us to be?

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 and Matthew 10:8

The woman who gave everything

Read Mark 12:41-44.

Why was this poor woman's money so valuable to God?

The talents

Read Matthew 25:14-29.

Brainstorm

Children usually don't have much money to use for God but they do have talents. What are some?

Drama

Dramatize the story of the talents.

Now make up a modern-day parallel.

Puzzle: God loves a person who gives cheerfully, 2 Cor. 9:7

God is a Servant

Week 2

The extra mile

Bible references

Matthew 5:41-42 The extra mile

Luke 9:23-26 Take up your cross

Luke 6:38 Give and it shall be given.

Acts 20:35 It is more blessed to give than receive.

Brainstorm

When we think about giving, we usually think about giving money. However, it is possible to give in other ways. Make a list of ways in which people can give without using money.

Examples: possessions, time, effort, love, kindness, joy.

Bible research

Making a sacrifice means giving up something that is important to you. Read Matthew 5:41-42. What does it mean to 'go the extra mile'?

How could we 'go the extra mile' in every day life?

Read Luke 9:23-25. What does forgetting about self and taking up your cross mean?

When might it be hard to be a follower of Jesus?

What do the following verses say about giving: Luke 6:38; Acts 20:30

Think of ways in which we can give to others and to God in the coming week. Remember that giving does not have to be in terms of possessions or money. It can be time and effort.

True story: Simpson and His Donkey

During the First World War, Private Simpson, a British soldier, served with the Australian Ambulance Corps. The Ambulance Corps was responsible for giving first aid to the wounded and for bringing them to safety as quickly as possible. Wherever the bullets rained thickest, there Simpson was to be found, bandaging the wounded, or holding a water flask to the lips of a dying soldier.

On the second day after landing, about one hundred donkeys were brought ashore to carry tins of water to the soldiers. 'Murphy' was among them. From the moment of their first meeting, Simpson and Murphy became fast friends, and were afterwards always to be seen together. Day after day the two did their noble work, setting out with a tin of water and bringing back the wounded. The animal seemed to know that he must tread carefully to avoid the bumps and jolts over a long and tiresome road. Had he not done so, the journey may have meant death to a badly injured soldier.

Often a man would be lying wounded, and no one else would know until Simpson found him or the donkey scented him out.

For some time this life-saving work went on, but one day, the animal was struck by a bullet, and had to be left behind. Then Simpson and some of his comrades half dragged and half carried the poor beast back to the lines. A few days later, Murphy, although slightly lame, was again at his work and as keen as ever.

One day, however, he came down the gully carrying a wounded man on his back, but his master was not there. As soon as he had delivered his burden, he trotted back up the gully. Not long afterwards he was seen sniffing at a form lying quite still on the ground. It was Simpson, who had been shot through the heart while returning slowly with a wounded comrade. The story of Simpson and his donkey will long be remembered among the bravest deeds of Anzac.

Discussion

1. Describe the work of the Australian Ambulance Corps during the First World War.
2. What work did the donkeys carry out?
3. How do we know that Murphy had a special love for Simpson?
4. What sacrifice was made in this story?
5. What is the greatest sacrifice anyone can make? (John 15:13)
6. Who made the greatest sacrifice for us?

God is a Servant

Week 3

Giving all

Serving God means giving all

Bible references

John 12:23-26 Whoever serves Jesus must follow Him.

Luke 9:23-26 Take up your cross

Hebrews 13:15-16; 1 Peter 2:5; Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:2...Sacrifices we can make.

Introduction

In the 1970's a man called Arthur Blessit decided that he would take a large wooden cross around the world with him and use it to witness for Jesus. He would walk into a town carrying the large wooden cross over his shoulder. Then, when he had drawn a crowd, he would stop and tell people about Jesus. He would then go on to the next town and do the same. His cross went with him on trucks and planes. How amazed the airport staff were, as Arthur stood at the check-in desk with his huge wooden cross!

Bible research

What does Jesus mean when He asks us all to take up our cross? Read Luke 9:23-26.

Jesus also said that to serve Him we must follow Him. (Read John 12:23-26)
Jesus meant that we must be willing to follow Him even if it means difficult times for us. There are many stories of people who have given everything to serve Jesus. Here is one.

True story: Father Damien, the Friend of Lepers

Joseph Damien was born in 1840 in the village of Tremeloo in Belgium. He was the son of a Belgian peasant, and as a boy, often helped his father with the work on the farm. Because of this he grew into a strong lad, and being very handy with tools, was able to do all kinds of useful jobs. Joseph and his brother were brought up to understand the Christian message, and it was Joseph's brother, Pamphile who wanted to be a missionary to the Sandwich Islands. However, Pamphile became seriously ill, and realised that he might never go to the Sandwich Islands, (now called Hawaii), and share the gospel with the people there.

"Would it make you happy if I took your place as a missionary?" asked Joseph one day. Pamphile's eyes lighted up for a moment and he squeezed his brother's hand, smiling.

Joseph wrote to the church for permission to be his brother's replacement on the mission. When permission was granted Joseph was very excited.

In 1863, Joseph Damien started out by sailing-ship for the South Seas. He was full of enthusiasm as he began his ministry on one of the Sandwich Islands. He worked there, teaching and preaching for ten years. During this time, the disease of leprosy was detected among an increasing number of the local people. Because leprosy is contagious, the authorities became increasingly alarmed, for the disease was spreading at a great rate. The government decided to isolate all lepers on a separate island to prevent any further spread of the disease in the community. The island of Molokai was set aside for lepers, and anyone banished to the island knew they had little or no hope of ever returning to their home and families.

Father Damien's kind heart was deeply touched by the sad plight of these poor people, and he approached the Bishop of the church in the islands for permission to go to Molokai and minister to the neglected lepers. The Bishop agreed to his request, and he made his way to the isolation from which he would never return.

On arrival at Molokai he was appalled at the conditions in which the poor people had been left to exist. They lived in makeshift houses, often with poor roofing that let the frequent rains in, creating mud puddles on the earthen floor. They had no regular food supply and insufficient water for their daily needs. Some of the more fortunate had relatives who brought them food or clothing occasionally, but they would not venture on to the island, and any such goods would be left on the beach without contacting the ones for whom it was intended.

As soon as he arrived, Father Damien set to work to supply the settlement with an adequate water supply. He asked the government for materials and, with the help of the strongest lepers, he built a reservoir in the hills and laid water pipes to the villages

near the coast. His next task was to build better housing for the people. In ten years Father Damien had seen to the building of six hundred houses. There was the need for a hospital where the more advanced cases of leprosy could be treated medically. He nursed them, dressed their wounds, comforted them when they were dying, and dug their graves when they were to be buried. As time passed, people in Europe heard of his unselfish work and sent out money and goods to help in the work.

One day, as he worked in the hospital, he accidentally spilt some boiling water on his foot. "That's strange," he thought. "I can't feel anything. I should be feeling the burning."

Leprosy affects the nerves of the body and causes lack of feeling on the affected parts. The fingers and toes wear away because, without any feeling, the victim damages them on hard and sharp things, and because there is no warning pain, there is irreparable damage done to their limbs.

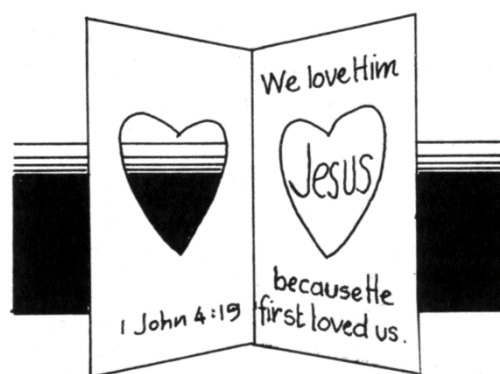
Father Damien went to a doctor. "Do I have leprosy, doctor?" he asked. After a thorough examination the doctor looked at him gravely and confirmed his suspicions.

Father Damien said that even if he could be cured by forsaking the island, he would not desert the lepers. They were the people to whom God had called him, and there he would remain. He worked on as a leper among the lepers until his death. Father Damien's ministry is remembered around the world. He had lived out the life of Jesus among the outcasts of the islands, showing kindness and love to them, which brought many to know Jesus personally.

From Margaret McIntyre's collection, Used by permission

Art/Craft

Make a 'cut-out' card with verse from 1 John 4:19. Decorate it with bright pens and glitter.



Answer to Word Search:

WE LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US

God is a Servant

Week 4

Serving through sacrifice

Bible references

Matthew 27; Hebrews 10:1 and 10:10 Jesus sacrificed His life.

1 John 2:2 & 4:10; Hebrews 7:27 & 9:28 Jesus made the greatest sacrifice of all.

Isaiah 53:3-10 Jesus took our sin upon Himself.

John 15:13 There is no greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Acts 20:35 It is more blessed to give than receive

Introduction

What is a sacrifice?

What sacrifices do your parents make for you?

How can we make sacrifices for others? For whom?

Write down a definition of 'sacrifice'.

Story: The Christmas Gifts

It was two weeks before Christmas. Stephen emptied his money-box and counted his money; only five dollars! That wouldn't buy much at all. He needed money to buy presents for his Mum and Dad, his little sister, and his grandparents.

All the next week, Stephen worked as hard as he could to earn some extra money. He raked the grass, washed the car, washed dishes, minded his little sister, and cleaned the carpet. Each job earned him another twenty cents.

At the end of the week, he tried to think of suitable gifts for each family member. He still didn't have enough to buy all the things he wanted. Stephen decided that instead of buying all his presents, he would make some. For Grandma and Grandpa he made some cookies, and for his little sister he made a hand puppet, (with a bit of help from Mum.) That left enough money to buy some earrings for Mum and some chocolate for Dad.

Luke came from a wealthy family. He didn't have to earn money. Dad gave him \$2 every week. Luke had saved some of his pocket money, but most of it he had spent on himself. He emptied his money box...only four dollars!

"Dad," said Luke. "Can I have some money to buy Christmas presents?"

"Sure, son," said his father. "How much do you need?"

"About \$50," said Luke.

Dad opened his wallet and gave Luke the money. The next day Luke went to the shops and bought Christmas presents for his family.

Discussion

Which boy was most sacrificial in his giving? Why?

Bible research

Jesus made the greatest sacrifice

Discuss the use of sacrifices in the Old Testament.

Why could only the best animal or produce be offered?

God does not expect these kinds of sacrifices any more. In Old Testament times sacrifices had to be made as a way of saying 'sorry' for sin. However, when Jesus died on the cross, that all changed. Why? (Hebrews 7:27; Hebrews 10:1 & 10:10)

What sacrifices did Jesus make throughout his life-time?

EXAMPLES...comfortable home; secure job; family; reputation; His life

Study the following Bible passages which tell of the greatest sacrifice anyone could make:

1 John 2:2 & 4:10

Hebrews 7:26 - 27

Isaiah 53:3-10 Jesus took our sin upon Himself.

John 15:13

Why were people in Old Testament times were required to offer sacrifices? (*for forgiveness of sins*)

What is kind of sacrifice did they make? (*usually a lamb*)

What was special about the lamb they offered? (*it was no perfect, with nothing wrong with it*)

Who offered the sacrifice on behalf of the people? (*the priest*)

In Hebrews 7:26 Jesus is called the High Priest. Why is He different to other priests who offered sacrifices in Old Testament times? (*He had no sin.*)

Jesus became the sacrificial Lamb of God. What does this mean?

God is a Servant

Jesus served in the greatest way anyone could ever serve. He gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins. God tells us that when we serve by giving, we will receive back more than we have given (Luke 6:38). This does not mean that we will always be given money or possessions. God can give to us in other ways. Acts 20:35 tells us that we receive more blessing from giving than receiving.

Sacrifices of those who follow in the footsteps of Jesus

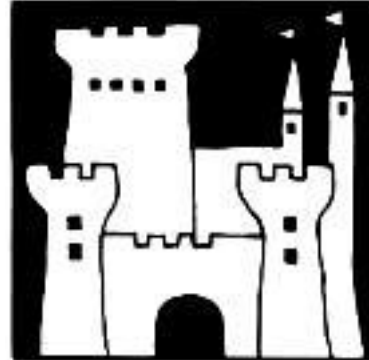
Many of the followers of Jesus made sacrifices too. Stephen was one who died for Jesus. Serving God is not always easy. What sacrifices do people make today in order to serve God?

Extension activity

Research the life of a missionary or Christian worker who made great sacrifices.

Year 7

God is Protector 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- God is able and wanting to protect us and has the might and strength to do so.
- God is greater than any earthly or demonic power.
- God protects us from the “evil one” - Jesus prays for this.
- We can ask Him to be our protector.
- God’s Word has many examples of Him protecting His people.
- God wants to be our safe refuge and shelter, wants us to run to Him in times of trouble.
- Believers do experience death because of sickness/accident as a result of the evil in the world, people’s choices etc., we are in a battle!
- Protection comes from obedience to God’s commands.
- We have protection through the blood of Jesus.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

The immune system; reducing diseases, traditional diets compared to modern diets; eating for good health

Link between “God is Protector” and classroom topics:

God has provided us with foods from His creation that contain nutrients for protecting our bodies from sickness and disease.

Values:

responsibility; security; peace; faith; care for self; self-control

Biographies:

Henry Dunant (Founder of the Red Cross), Louis Pasteur, Joseph Lister

God is Protector

Week 1

Jesus has power over evil

Bible references

Ephesians 6:10-11 Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.

1 John 5:18 We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but He who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.

Mark 5:1-19 A man with demons

Bible lesson

How can we be confident that God *will* faithfully protect us from the evil one? Look at 1 John 5:18. We have to do our part. We have to use our free will and choose not to keep on sinning. The devil may tempt us but we do not have to give in. When our eyes are on Jesus, He promises to give us strength to resist evil.

Are evil spirits real?

There are many examples in the New Testament of people who were controlled by evil spirits. Jesus cast out evil spirits from people, e.g. Matthew 8:28-33.

The apostles cast out evil spirits, e.g. Acts 8:4-8

Discuss the effects that the evil spirits had on those people?

Are evil spirits still evident in our modern world?

In our modern secular world where so many do not believe in the Bible, people often say that there are no evil spirits... evil spirits are just imaginary! They would also say that strange types of behaviour (self-harming), extreme violence or cruelty, are only problems of the mind, and therefore can be explained by science. Yet the Bible tells us that evil spirits are real, and can have a direct effect upon people, or cause "special effects," like ghosts for example. But ghosts are actually evil spirits.

How do evil spirits come to live in people?

There are many ways. Firstly, a person must open themselves up to evil. They choose to listen to the evil one. There are many religions that worship evil spirits. False gods are evil spirits. This is one way for an evil spirit to come and live inside a person.

Meddling with witchcraft practices such as séances will attract evil spirits into your life. Another means is to abuse the body through taking drugs, or to be involved in sexual sin.

How can people get rid of evil spirits?

There is only one way. They have to submit their whole life to God. They may also have to have special prayer for the evil spirit to be cast out.

What happens if that person decides to turn away from Jesus after they've chosen to follow him?

Read about this in Luke 11:24-26.

Can evil spirits inhabit a Christian?

Not if a Christian is fully submitted to God, and following in His ways. Jesus has given us power and authority over evil spirits. Read Mark 16:17-18. This is our protection when we are doing the will of Jesus. Also read Ephesians 6:10-11, 2 Thessalonians, Isaiah 54:17.

How did Jesus show His power over evil spirits?

Read the account of "a man with demons" from Mark 5:1-19.

Here we see the power and authority of Jesus in both words and actions.

Values:

Fijian national curriculum values: Responsibility; Safety and security for all citizens; Peace; Faith

Other related values: care for self; self-control

God is Protector

Week 2

Prayer for protection

Bible references

Psalms 35:1, 64:1, 69:29, 140:1, 4 David's prayers for protection

Matt.6:13 The Lord's Prayer

John 17:11,15 Jesus' prayer for His followers

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

1 Peter 5:8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Psalm 59:16 But as for me, I will sing about your power. Each morning I will sing with joy about your unfailing love. For you have been my refuge, a place of safety when I am in distress. (NLT)

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 121 The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Bible Lesson

Look at what Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:13.

Why does God want us to pray for protection against evil one?

Read Ephesians 6:12.

Satan is not too concerned about unbelievers. The Bible calls the people who do not believe in God 'worldly'. 2 Cor 4:4 says, "the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God". Satan wants the world to believe he doesn't exist so he can easily go about his evil work in the world.

Satan's real battle is against Christians. Ephesians 6:12 tells us that we're not really battling a visible enemy but an invisible one. So we need to pray, asking God to send His army of angels to do battle for us.

Why should we not worry about these powers and principalities of evil?

Because Jesus Christ "having disarmed the principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross,"(Col 2:15). We have no fear of any prince of darkness, no power of evil, and not only that, we have no fear of death since we would be immediately with the Lord at death. Paul tells us that he is "convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities nor powers, neither things present nor things to come, neither height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:38-29).

What is the kingdom of darkness like?

Satan has his own ministers, (demons or fallen angels) to do battle with him. Satan himself walks around as an angel of light” (2 Cor 11:14). That means he sometimes pretends to be good in order to trick people. The bible tells us to “be alert and on guard for your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour,” (1 Peter 5:8). If we know Jesus and keep His word in our hearts, we will recognize the activities of Satan. This is the gift of ‘discernment’ which God gives to Christians.

Jesus Christ is “far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else - not only in this world but also in the world to come”, ((Eph 1:21), “for he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son”, (Col 1:13).

Does it mean that nothing bad will ever happen to a Christian?

Because we are in a battle there are sometimes casualties. There have been many people who have died while doing God’s work. Many missionaries have given their lives for the sake of the Gospel. God protects the eternal life He has given us, but our bodies on this earth do have to die! However we are instructed to pray for protection as we daily do God’s work, and we remember that God is fighting for us. If we knew how many times God sent angels to save Christians from calamity, we would be amazed. Just as there are many, many examples of God’s protection of His people in the Bible, there are many miracles of protection that still occur today.

God is Protector

Week 3

Protection through obedience

Numbers 19:11; Leviticus 13:45; Deut. 23:12-14 Old Testament health laws

Exodus 15:26 "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord who heals you."

Exodus 12:13-14 Blood over the doorposts

Introduction

God gave to the ancient Israelites basic laws of health which, if obeyed, would keep the Israelites free from disease. God’s protection came only when the Israelites obeyed God’s laws.

When were germs discovered?

In our modern world almost everyone knows that it is important to keep clean. But people haven’t always known that. It wasn’t until 1840 that people knew about germs. In 1840 a doctor in Europe, in the country of Austria, made an important discovery. Doctor Ignaz Semmelweis was worried about the women in his hospital.

Too many mothers who were there to have a baby were dying. He wanted to find out why.

Doctor Semmelweis noticed that many of the women were being treated by doctors who had just finished doing autopsies. (An autopsy is an operation on a dead person to find out why they died.) After the autopsies, the doctors would examine the live patients without washing their hands first. So Doctor Semmelweis decided to try a new rule: All doctors and nurses had to wash their hands after handling the dead bodies. And guess what happened? The number of deaths went down immediately.

Later Doctor Semmelweis tried his discovery at another hospital. It worked successfully there too. Within the next thirty years, scientific discoveries about germs proved that Doctor Semmelweis was right, and why. But really Doctor Semmelweis wasn't the first to know that cleanliness is a key to being healthy. The information had been in the Bible for more than 3000 years!

The information had already been made known to Israel!

God told Moses to tell the people to wash their hands after touching a dead person. We can read it in Numbers chapter 19, verse 11: "whoever touches a corpse is ritually unclean for seven days. He must purify himself with the water for purification..."

Also, God told the Israelites how to keep open sores clean and how to prevent contagious skin diseases like leprosy from spreading. We can read about this in Leviticus 13 and 14.

Read Leviticus 13:45.

Why did a person with leprosy have to live outside the camp, away from others?

God also gave the Israelites instructions on how to build camp toilets, in order to keep germs away from the camp. Read about it in Deut. 23:12-14.

It took many thousands of years for the rest of the world to find out why those things were in the Bible.

The Bubonic Plague

During the 14th century bubonic plague struck Asia and spread to Russia, Persia, Turkey, North Africa and Europe. About one third of the European population died in those tragic years. The Jewish physician Balavignus lived in those times and saw that extremely bad sanitation was the major cause of the spread of the disease. He instituted a cleanup movement among the Jews. As a result, the rats left the Jewish communities and moved into the "Gentile" sectors of the city. As a result, the Jews' mortality rate from the plague was only five percent of what it was among their non-Jewish neighbors!

The general population soon saw the difference, but instead of learning from the Jewish hygienic measures, the people began to suspect the Jews of causing the

plague and poisoning wells! A general massacre was launched. Balavignus himself was persecuted and tortured.

How was the Black Death finally conquered? A professor of the History of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, finally realized that it was necessary to isolate the sick. The principle of infectious disease was at last understood, laying the foundation for modern hygiene practices.

God requires obedience to laws

What did God say to the Israelites about obeying the laws He had given?

Read Exodus 15:26.

The Israelites were protected as long as they obeyed.

Another event in history where God protected the Israelites was when He brought them out of Egypt. They had been slaves for years and finally it was time for them to be set free and go to their own land. Moses was their leader. Because the Pharaoh would not agree to let them go, God had to send many plagues to the land to bend the Pharaoh's will. But none of the plagues affected the Israelites, only the Egyptians. The last plague was the most serious. The angel of death would pass over the Egyptian houses killing the first born. God gave the Israelites specific instructions which had to be obeyed for their protection. Read about it in Exodus 12:12-14.

Protection in the blood

Why do you think God asked the Israelites to remember this event for all time to come?

The blood of the lamb shed at this event is a symbol of the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus, which would be shed for the whole world.

How is there protection in the blood of Jesus?

Discussion

Does God protect us when we go against wise advice?

Where do we find wise advice?

Year 7

God is Truth 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- Truth can be found by those who diligently search for it.
- Jesus is the only way to the Father.
- God has placed 'eternity in the hearts' of every human being - a desire to seek truth
- Everyone has the opportunity to see that there is a Creator God by looking at the creation.
- When we seek truth, God will reveal it to us.
- True believers recognize that Jesus is the Son of God and accept Him by faith.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Physical forces in the creation, e.g. electricity

Link between "God is Truth" and classroom topics:

God is faithful and consistent. We see this in the creation. The universe is held together by scientific laws and principles which God established from the beginning. Early scientists searched to find the truth about the universe. Those who honoured God made great discoveries.

Values:

honesty, fairness, respect for truth and justice, integrity

Biography: Thomas Edison

God is Truth

Week 1

Those who seek the truth will find it.

We will find the truth when we search for truth with all our heart

Bible references

Luke 11:9 Ask, seek, knock.

Matthew 6:33 Seek first God's kingdom.

Matthew 13:44-45 The pearl of great price and the hidden treasure

Introduction: How are pearls formed?

Today we are going to talk about pearls. What are they? Where do we find them? What are they used for?

A pearl is born when something very tiny gets inside the oyster and irritates the animal. It may be a grain of sand. When the sand grain gets between the shell and the soft body of the shell-fish, the oyster protects itself by covering the intruder with the same pearly substance that lines its shell. Few pearls are large, and few are perfect in shape. As few as one in a thousand pearl oysters may contain a pearl of any value.

These days pearls can be 'farmed' or 'cultured' by placing tiny grains of sand in the pearl oysters. The oysters are then carefully fed and protected, in special cages. Then, at the right time, opened up and the precious pearls are removed.

In the olden days, however, people did not know how to culture pearls. To find pearls, people had to search for them. Divers would collect thousands of oyster shells. Sometimes they would open the shells on the boat. Sometimes they would take them to the shore and open them there.

Imagine that you are a deep-sea diver looking for pearls. You know the type of shells which might contain the pearls, so you keep your eyes alert. When you have collected enough shells, you start to open each one carefully with your special tool. You patiently open one shell after another, but no luck. You throw them back into the sea. Then finally you find a shell containing a pearl!

Finding pearls is a bit like finding hidden treasure. Things of value are not always easy to find. This is also true with finding gold and precious stones. In mining, tons of earth must be extracted in order to find tiny portions of precious minerals.

Panning for gold is not easy either. If you want to pan for gold you would go to a stream that is likely to contain gold, and then fill your pan with water and stones from the stream. Then swish and swirl the mixture, looking carefully all the time for any little lumps of gold that may be amongst the stones. In your pocket you would have a little container for your findings.

Searching for truth is a bit like searching for treasure because truth is something of great value. Like the person panning for gold, or the diver looking for pearls, we also have to be very careful and focused in our search, in case we overlook or miss seeing the truth. The Bible is the source of truth. Understanding what God has to say is like finding treasure because having God's Word in our heart is so valuable.

Bible research

Jesus said that God's kingdom is the most valuable thing in the world. (Read Matthew 6:33 and Matthew 13:44-45.)

What might people give up in order to gain something far more valuable, the Christian faith?

Just as people need to search for hidden treasure, they must also search for the truth about God. (Read Matthew 6:33 and Luke 11:9).

Story: How Can I Find the True God?

In some countries it is not easy to find the truth about God, because people grow up learning to worship false gods.

Bindu lived in India and belonged to a Hindu family. Her father and grandfather and great grandfather before her had spent their lives as Hindu holy men. Another name for a Hindu holy man is a Yogi. To be a great Yogi you had to sit in a special yogi position day after day, meditating and reading the sacred book of Hinduism. Meditating in the Hindu way is to sit very still and allow your mind to think of nothing. In this way the Yogis would try to contact the many gods they worshipped. They would often experience the presence of these gods. Really, they were experiencing the power of evil spirits. Although Bindu didn't really know her father, she thought that he was someone very special.

Bindu and her brother and sister were instructed in Hinduism each day. With their mother, they would sit in the prayer room, in front of the altar with its many little statues. They repeated certain prayers to these gods of clay, wood or brass.

From the age of five Bindu was taught to meditate. She would sit with crossed legs and stare at nothing. For a past-time the children would draw pictures of these gods and pin them up on their walls.

Some of the gods were terrifying, but the Hindus still worshipped them because of their great power. One of the gods, Shiva, was most fearsome. In fact his real title was Shiva the destroyer. Sometimes Bindu would have nightmares of Shiva, who presented himself as a huge cobra poised ready for attack.

One of the most sacred gods was the cow. All Hindus took great care of the cow, giving it prime place in family life. They were horrified at the thought of people who actually ate their god! In fact they were horrified at people who ate any living creature, for they believed in reincarnation. That is the belief that when something or someone

dies, they return in the next life as another creature. You dare not tread on an ant, because it could just be your great grandmother.

Had the Hindus believed in the God of the Bible they would have realised that God created everything after its own kind, that people were far more special to God than animals, and that life after death was not here on this earth at all.

Bindu was taught to respect her father, the great Yogi, as someone so special that he could have been a god himself. "Surely the great creator of the universe is the only true God!" she thought one day. "Not the great Yogis, not Shiva, with his horrible evil eyes, not all the other gods. Surely there is only one true God, and surely He is a good God!"

"God, the true God and creator, please show me the truth," she prayed one day, to a God she had never prayed to before.

As Bindu grew older she met some Christians, who told her how she could meet the true God and know Him as a loving friend. Bindu knew what she must do. She opened her heart to Jesus, and at once felt such happiness and peace. She no longer experienced the terrible nightmares. She had found the God of love. She also knew that Jesus wasn't just another one of several million gods. He was the only true God.

Discussion

1. Why is it difficult for people who grow up in a Hindu society to become Christians?
2. Is it impossible for them to become Christians?
3. Why do you think that God wants Christians to 'Go into all the world'?
4. Some of the false gods worshipped by the Hindus really had power. Where do you think the power came from?
5. How can we tell whether a person is worshipping the true God or a false god? What are the characteristics of a false god?
6. Can a person worship the true God and other gods at the same time?
7. How can we tell whether a person worships the One true God?
8. Many people all over the world practise a form of exercise called Yoga, which is taken directly from the Hindu religion. Do you think Christians should practise Yoga?

God is Truth

Week 2

Accepting God's truth with faith

Bible references

Luke 24:13-35 The two followers on the road to Emmaus: They understood the truth when they believed.

John 20:24-29 Unbelief prevented Thomas from knowing the truth.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. (GNB)

John 1:17 Truth came through Jesus Christ.

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes He will guide you into all truth.

Introduction

Revise 'searching for treasure'.

What kinds of treasure do people search for?

Story: Where's the Gold?

Early one morning a man was visited by his neighbour.

"Quickly, quickly!" said the neighbour. "Someone's found gold in the river."

"How could that be?" said the man. "I've lived near the river all my life and there's never been gold in the river."

The man decided to go away for a few days. Meanwhile the news spread. People came with their pans. Sure enough, they were finding gold. There had been a landslide upstream. Part of the bank, which contained a seam of gold, had fallen into the river.

When the man returned, some days later, all the gold had been collected. Because the man did not believe the news about the gold, he missed out on finding any.

The Bible is like treasure. Because many people do not believe the Good News of the Bible, they miss out on finding true happiness in life. Knowing Jesus is the best treasure we can have.

Questions

1. Why didn't the man believe there was gold in the river?
2. Why did the man miss out on getting any gold?
3. Why can people miss out on finding the truth about Jesus?

God is truth

Jesus said "_____ and it shall be given. _____ and you shall find." (Matthew 7:7)

Some people never think about *who* made the world and everything in it. They never think about what happens when we die. They just live their life without ever thinking about God. However, God has told us that we have no excuse for not knowing the truth. The creation tells of the wonders of God. If we seek, we will find the truth.

"For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse." Romans 1:20

Bible lesson: The Doubters

After Jesus died, and rose again, there were some followers who could not believe that Jesus really had risen from the dead.

Two of his friends were walking along a road to the town of Emmaus, when Jesus himself started walking along beside them. They did not recognise this person to be Jesus because they did not believe.

"Why are you so sad?" asked Jesus.

"Haven't you heard?" said the one called Cleopas. "Our friend Jesus was crucified on Friday."

"But haven't you read the Scripture?" asked Jesus. "Doesn't the Scripture say that He will come alive again on the third day?"

As Jesus started to explain the Scripture to them they started to believe.

When they got to the town of Emmaus, the two friends begged Jesus to stay with them. (They still didn't know it was Jesus). As they were having a meal together the two friends suddenly recognised Him. Then Jesus disappeared.

Now they believed that Jesus had risen. "Wasn't it exciting," they said to each other, "when Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the true meaning of the Scriptures!"

They went at once to tell the other followers.

These two friends of Jesus were not the only ones who didn't believe the truth at first. Thomas was another. Read about his experience from John 20:24-29.

Bible research

Perhaps it is harder for people to believe the truth about Jesus today because they cannot see Jesus. However, God has sent the Holy Spirit to help us believe the truth. (Read John 16:13)

The Bible tells us that we must trust God in everything, not in what we think we know. Read Proverbs 3:5. Trusting God, and believing His Word is having FAITH.

Discussion

1. Who was walking with the two friends?
2. Why didn't they recognise Him?
3. When did they start to believe?
4. Why is it important for us to read the Bible?
5. These two friends of Jesus were not the only ones who didn't believe the truth at first. Name another friend of Jesus who also doubted. Find out from John 20:24-29.
6. How can we help others to believe in Jesus, even though we can't see Him?

God is Truth

Week 3

Evidence that God is true

God has placed within every person a desire to search for the truth about Himself.

Bible references

Romans 1:20-23 For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen...so that they are without excuse.

Acts 14:17 He has always given evidence of His existence by the good things He does: He gives you rain from heaven and crops at the right times...(GNB)

Jeremiah 33:25 But I the Lord have a covenant with day and night, and I have made the laws that control the earth and the sky.

Luke 11:9-10 He that seeks finds.

John 8:32 You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Luke 19:37-40 The large crowd of His disciples began to thank God and praise Him in a loud voice... If they keep quiet, the stones themselves will start shouting. (GNB)

Matthew 16:13-20 Peter declared that Jesus was the Son of God, a truth given directly by the Father.

Introduction

Show a photo of something from God's creation, or look at some real-life examples, e.g. plants. What does the creation tell us about God?

Discussion

When we look at a waterfall or a tree we must ask "Who made it?"

Finding the truth about God is easier for some people than others. Some children grow up in Christian families. Others grow up in places where the name of Jesus is not known. However, even in these places it is possible to know the truth about God by looking at the greatness of His creation. The Bible says that God has shown His great power through the things He has made. God has also placed within every person a desire to find out the truth about Himself.

True story: A King Discovers the True God

In South America, over 5000 years ago, lived the king of the Inca people. His name was King Pachacuti. The king organised the building of huge palaces and forts, as well as a beautiful temple in honour of the sun god that the Incas called Inti. Inti, of course, was a false god, but the Incas didn't know that.

Then one day, the king fell upon a great discovery. If the light of Inti can be dimmed by clouds, then Inti cannot be all-powerful. He also thought about how restless Inti was, always moving across the sky. Surely such a great god would not be so restless. And why did Inti only give light some of the time?

Suddenly the king realized that he had only been worshipping a thing as a god. Inti was not a real god at all.

"If Inti is not the true god, then who is?" he thought.

The king realised that there was a more powerful One, the Lord, the Creator of all things. He called this God, Viracocha.

"A God who created all things deserves worship," thought the king. He called all his priests of Inti. He commanded that from that time forward, Inti be only respected as something created by someone much more powerful. He also commanded that now all prayer be directed to Viracocha. The king wrote many hymns to Viracocha, the great God of the universe.

Unfortunately, the king thought that He would be more special if he was the only one worshipping Viracocha. He therefore decided to keep it a secret. Only his own priests and closest friends knew about the true God. The rest of the Incas went on worshipping Inti, the sun god.

Many years later, when Christian missionaries arrived, they found the hymns written by the king. They were amazed that the king had discovered the true God, without their help.

This true story shows us that God can reveal Himself to people who have never been told of Him, if they are truly searching with all their heart.

From *Eternity in Their Hearts* by Don Richardson

Bible lesson: Peter Discovers the Truth

Peter had been a friend of Jesus for some time. When Jesus called him to leave his fishing nets and follow Him, something inside Peter said 'Go!' As Peter spent time with Jesus, day after day, he knew that Jesus was a very special person. No one had ever told Peter that Jesus was God's Son, but somehow he just knew.

One day, Jesus asked, "Who do you think I am?"
Straight away Peter answered, "You are the Son of God."

Read what Jesus said to Peter in Matthew 16:17.

Peter believed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. "Messiah" means the one sent from God. The Israelites had been waiting for the Messiah to come for thousands of years. When Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church", He meant that this truth, this statement that Peter had just made, would be the foundation of the Christian church. Every church of true believers exists because of the truth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and the Saviour of the world.

Truth Quiz

1. God made the world in ___ days. (*six*)
2. Jesus is the way, the truth and the ____. (*Life*)
3. Jesus said, "No one comes to the ___ except by Me." (*Father*)
4. Ask, ____, knock. (*Seek*)
5. Jesus said, "Enter by the ___ gate." (*narrow*)
6. Jesus said, "I am the ___ of the sheep fold." (*gate / door*)

Year 7

God is Lord and King 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- God is in charge of the whole world
- Christmas is a special time when we remember when God sent Jesus into the world as part of his big plan for the world
- Baby Jesus was God's Son. This means that although He was a human baby, He was also God.
- The birth of Jesus was prophesied in the Old Testament.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

World geography: countries and continents

Link between "God is Lord and King" and classroom topic:

Discuss with children that God is in control of the whole universe. That is, our world, the sun and the stars. He tells the sun the time to set. He makes the tides because the moon is under His control, (Ps 104:19). Because God is looking after our world, He looks after the people that He made. He sent His son Jesus into the world so that every person in the whole world could have the opportunity of knowing the true God.

Values:

faith; respect for truth

God is Lord and King

Week 1

A King is born

Bible reference:

Matthew 2:1-12

After sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden, it was God's plan to send His Son to give people the opportunity of being saved from their sin. God's timing was perfect. Jesus was born to Mary by the Holy Spirit. An angel told her that this would be so. Joseph, to whom she was engaged to be married, was also told by an angel that this would be. Just before the birth, Joseph and Mary had to make the long journey to Bethlehem, on foot and by donkey. When they arrived the only place they could find to stay was a stable, and that night baby Jesus was born. Some shepherds watching their sheep that night had a visitation from angels, who told them that a Saviour had been born. A new bright star appeared in the sky that night as a sign that a Saviour had been born. The shepherds rushed excitedly to find the baby and worshipped him.

There were some wise men from the East who took note of the special star. The wise men studied the stars, and could tell that this star was a sign that a new king had been born. They made preparations for a long journey by camel and followed the star. Over a year later they arrived at Bethlehem. Bethlehem was in the country of Judea, and Jerusalem was the capital city of Judea. Herod was the king of Judea at this time. The wise men, also called Magi, came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the Magi to him and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The History behind the Three Kings/Wise Men/Magi in the Christmas Story

After Jesus was born, Wise Men came to look for Him. They probably came from an area in today's Iraq or Iran or Saudi Arabia or the Yemen. Although they are often called the 'Three Kings', the Bible does not say how many there were, or that they were kings. One theory is that they might have been kings of the Yemen, as during this time the kings of Yemen were Jews. Three is only a guess because they brought with them three gifts: but, however many there were, they probably would have had many servants with them too.

They were definitely men of learning. The word 'Magi' comes from the Greek word 'magos' (where the English word 'magic' comes from). Today we would call them astrologers. Back then, astronomy and astrology were part of the same overall study. The magi would have carefully followed the patterns of the stars. They would have also probably been very rich, and held in high esteem in their own society and by people who weren't from their country or religion.

They had seen an unusual new star in the sky, and knew that it told of the birth of a special king. No one really knows what the new star in the sky was, and there are many theories including comets, supernovas or something supernatural!

Herod asked the Wise Men to find Jesus and tell him where He was, not so he could go and worship Him as he said, but so he could kill Him! He thought that Jesus sounded like a new King that could come and take his power away.

When the Wise Men found Jesus and Mary, they would have been living in a normal house in Bethlehem, because by this time Jesus would have been aged between one and two. Then they gave their gifts to Him. The gifts seem quite strange to give to a baby, but Christians believe that they had the following meanings:

Gold: is associated with Kings, and Christians believe that Jesus is the King of Kings.

Frankincense: is sometimes used in worship in churches, and showed that people worship Jesus.

Myrrh: is a perfume that is put on dead bodies to make them smell nice, and showed that Jesus would suffer and die.

The gifts are also all things that come from the east of Israel, from Arabia. When they were about to go to tell Herod where Jesus was, they were warned in a dream not to, so Herod could not carry out his horrible plan.

<http://www.whychristmas.com/story/wisemen.shtml>

Questions:

1. Where did Joseph and Mary sleep in Bethlehem? (*stable*)
2. What was the occupation of the Wise Men? (*studied the stars / astrologers*)
3. What did they learn from their study of the stars? (*a new king had been born*)
4. Where did the star lead them? (*Bethlehem*)

5. Where were Joseph, Mary and Jesus when the Wise Men arrived in Bethlehem?
(Living in a house in Bethlehem)
6. What gifts did the Wise Men bring to Jesus? *(Gold, frankincense and myrrh)*
7. Why did Herod want to find out where Jesus was? *(He wanted to kill him.)*
8. How did the Wise Men know not to tell Herod? *(a dream)*

God is Lord and King

Week 2

The Kingdom of God

Bible references

Psalm 47 Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy. For the Lord Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.

Psalm 47: 6-8 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise. God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.

Colossians 1:12-14 He rescued us out of the kingdom of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son.

Luke 12:38-41 Jesus demonstrated power.

Matthew 10:7-10 and Mark 16:15-18 Jesus told the disciples that they could demonstrate the power of God

God is King

Read the verses from the Psalms that tell us that God is a King.

What does a king do?

A king rules his people. He is in charge of his country. This is his kingdom. He has power over his kingdom and the people in his kingdom are expected to pledge allegiance to him.

What is God's kingdom?

God reigns over the whole universe. He reigns over everything and everyone He created. God has power over everything.

Read Colossians 1:13-14.

Satan also has a kingdom. What is this called?

What is God's kingdom called? (verse 12)

Although God is the king of the whole world, Satan does still have power in the hearts and lives of those who permit him to rule their lives. But God gave the opportunity for everyone to come out of the kingdom of darkness and be brought into the kingdom of light through Jesus Christ. Those who accept Jesus and make Him their Lord are in the kingdom of light.

What does Jesus expect from us as our King?

Jesus wants to be our king, the one we allow to rule our lives.

How did Jesus show us what the Kingdom of God is like?

When Jesus came to earth as a king, He showed the world that the kingdom of God has great power. Jesus healed the sick, cast out demons and even raised people from the dead. Read Luke 12:38-41.

Was it only Jesus who demonstrated this power? What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

Read Matthew 10:7-10 and Mark 16:15-18

Week 3

The final defeat of Satan

Bible references

Isaiah 14:10-15 Satan's fall from heaven

1 John 5:19 Christians belong to God, even though the world is under the rule of Satan.

1 John 3:8, Hebrews 2:14 Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil.

Ephesians 1:18-22 Jesus is seated in Heaven as a ruler over all.

Revelation 1:7 Jesus will come on the clouds and everyone will see Him.

Daniel 7:13-14 In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days (*God the Father*), and was led into His presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Revelation 20:1-3 & 7-10 Satan destroyed is forever.

About Satan

Satan was originally created as an angel named Lucifer, but he rebelled against God. A third of the angels in Heaven followed Satan in his rebellion against God. We can read about this in Isaiah 14:10-15, where he is also called the King of Babylonia. Satan and his fallen angels are spirit-beings. We cannot see them, but they are very real enemies of every child of God.

When God created the world, He put Adam in charge. But when Adam rebelled against God, he took sides with Satan and came under his rule. It is a terrible thing to think that the first man chose rebellion and sin and death. What did it mean? It was a great victory for Satan. The Bible says,

"...the whole world lies in wickedness under the rule of the wicked one" (1 John 5:19).

Why Christ came

The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world to destroy the works of the devil. The Bible says, “the Son of God appeared for this reason, to destroy what the Devil had done.” (1 John 3:8).

For thousands of years, until Christ came, sin and death and Satan reigned in the world. But one Man, Jesus, took the sin of the world upon Himself and died as punishment for our sin. Jesus became human like us. The Bible says,

“He did this so that through His death he might destroy the Devil, who has the power over death.” (Hebrews 2:14).

Christ is King

When Jesus went back to Heaven, the Father gave Him the place of greatest honour and power. Jesus Christ is now seated on the throne of Heaven.

Read Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 1:18-22.

1. What special gift do believers have? (Verse 19)
2. Who does Christ rule over? (Verse 21-22)
3. Who is the church? (Verse 23)

Satan will be destroyed forever

Although Satan has no power in the life of believers, he still has power in the world. The Kingdom of God currently operates here on earth in and through the life of believers. But one day Jesus will return as King of kings and Lord of lords and His Kingdom will be total and complete. Read Revelation 1:7

Read Daniel 7:13-14. This is a vision given to Daniel about Christ’s coming, and His kingship.

When Jesus returns to earth, Satan and death and evil will be defeated forever. What will happen to Satan during the 1,000 years before Jesus comes to judge the world? Read Revelation 20:1-3

What finally happens to Satan? Read Revelation 20:7-10