



Equipping Literacy Assistants

Character and values

Values: what are they?

- A set of standards that we value, in this case, as a society
- Guiding principles that dictate behaviour or actions
- Principles that help us know right from wrong

Values: who sets the standard?

- There are different ideas about what is right and wrong.
- Those who believe that God is a supreme being can look to Him for guiding principles.
- Those who don't believe in God make their own rules.

Values have a faith basis

- Either faith in God or faith in human nature
- Human nature fails
- So it makes sense to look to the One who made us for our values
- He sets the standards.

The attributes of God

What is God like?

God is...

- A Creator
- Loving
- Wise
- A provider
- A protector
- Truth

Our values should reflect the character of God

As we come to understand each attribute of God's character and nature, a response is required of us. This response is like a reflection in a mirror.

Character development should be taught as an outworking of knowing the character of God.

Looking closely at the nature of God and learning about His character, causes us to *reflect* His character.



Our response to understanding God's nature and character



God is Creator

Faith and trust in a supernatural God

Confidence that God has a plan for the world, from Creation to eternity.



God is Love

Loving others as Christ loves us.

Forgiveness, kindness, gentleness, compassion.



God is Wise

Our wisdom comes from obeying God.



God is Protector

Trust and confidence in a great and powerful God, a loving Father.



God is Powerful

Faith in God's supernatural power.



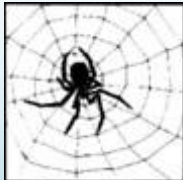
God is Truth

Truthfulness, telling the truth and living the truth; discernment of truth as we weigh up the world's standards against God's standards; tell the truth and live the truth.



God is Pure and Holy

Integrity and responsibility; purity in word and deed as we walk in obedience to God.



God is Patient

Patience with ourselves and others; perseverance and self-control.



God is a Servant
Service; helping others



God is Life; our Saviour
God loves all people so much that He sent Jesus, to take the sins of all who believe in Him. He gives eternal life. Our response is thankfulness and obedience to Him.



God is a Provider
Trust and confidence that God cares for us and will provide for us
Thankfulness generosity in sharing what God has provided.



God is Peace
Be at peace, knowing that God is with us.

God is the starting point

- These attributes of God should be the starting point for developing Godly character.
- All values that are worthy and upright come from God Himself
- Not from our own human effort

How do we teach values?

- Focus FIRST on who God is.
e.g. He wants us to be loving, because He is.
- THEN teach the value that comes out of knowing who God is.
- The attribute of God is the primary focus, (not the value).

Serving not striving

We teach values starting with God's character... not from our own good efforts, which can lead to pride.

Two different ways to teach values:

1. "Let's TRY to be kind. It's a nice thing to do."
(striving)

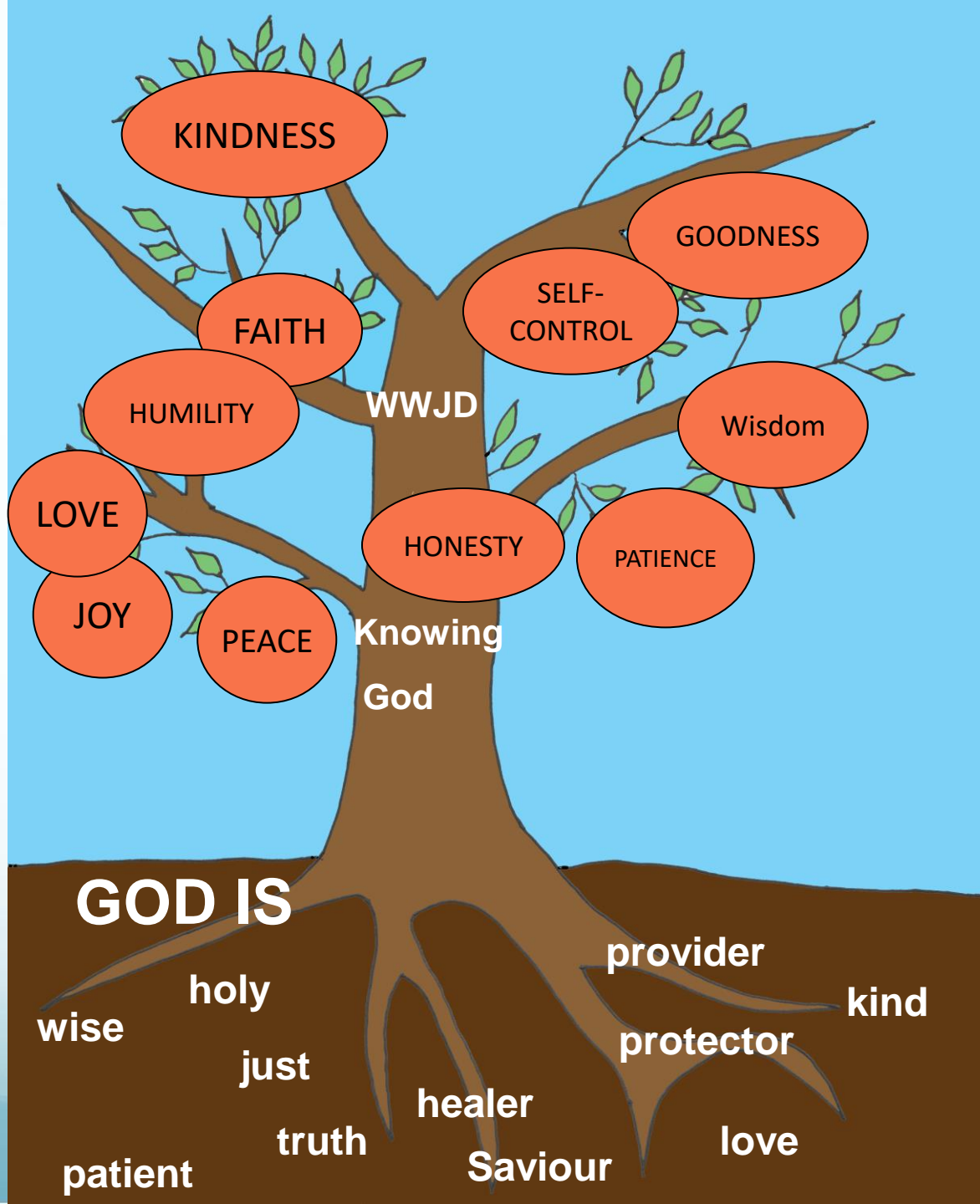
2. "*God's love*". He wants us to be kind to others so that we can share His love to others." **(serving)**

How successful is trying to be good from our own human effort?

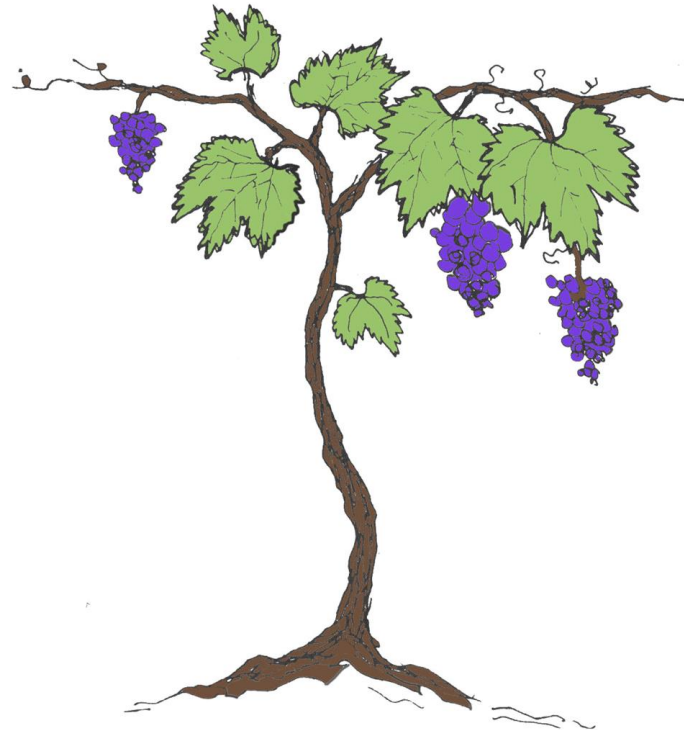
Human nature fails but the Holy Spirit in us molds our character to become more like Christ.

Values that are founded on God's standards

- We love because God loves us.
- We serve by showing humility and concern for others.
- We are patient because God is patient with us.
- We do what's right because God is pure and holy.
- We are thankful and generous because God is our provider.



Stay connected in all you teach



JESUS
*is the vine,
we are the branches*

Activity: Character match

For each of these attributes of God, match some responses. Explain why you have chosen these.

Attributes:

God is Love, God is Provider, God is Truth, God is a servant, God is Pure and Holy

Responses:

generous, humble, kind, honest, obedient, faithful, thankful, friendly, responsible, caring, courageous